

Hafa Adai!

Kensington unveils infinity pool in 1st anniversary. **PAGE 2**  
Farrell doubts theory of Earhart's captivity on Saipan. **PAGE 3**

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75¢

## Fisherman is found dead



A view of the ocean from the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, Saipan, where a 26-year-old man went missing after fishing west of the park early Saturday morning. He was later found dead.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A 26-year-old man who went fishing with a companion in the waters near the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico early Saturday morning was later found dead. He is believed to have drowned.

» **Victim said to be 4th ocean/beach drowning victim this year**

The victim, an indigenous male, was pronounced dead by Dr. Florence Shenker at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room Saturday at 1:55am.

Acting Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong

**See DEAD on Page 4**

## Muña: Two pharmacies possible at CHC

By **BEA CABRERA**  
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REPORTER

Two outpatient pharmacies operating at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.—the PHI Pharmacy and CHCC's own outpatient pharmacy service—is possible, according to

CHCC CEO Esther Muña.

"We are okay with that. We have different goals and we may have dual services but, at the end of the day, there is a choice for the patient. The purpose of the program is nothing negative on PHI. Our vision is still basically the continuous improve-

ment in the quality of healthcare," said Muña.

The drive for CHCC to have its own outpatient pharmacy is to be able to provide post-patient care on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The presentation at the House last

**See CHC on Page 4**

## Senate forms gaming committee

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
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REPORTER

The Senate has formed a new committee led by Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) to address gaming concerns in the CNMI.

According to internal Senate communications, the new Committee on Gaming will be composed of Quitugua, Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as vice chairman, and Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), and Senate

**See SENATE on Page 4**

### SAIPAN SAILOR

**SAN DIEGO**—Petty Officer 1st Class Romeo Agulto, from Saipan, stages cargo for maintenance in the hangar bay of aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* following a 2017 Western Pacific Deployment. *Carl Vinson* is currently undergoing maintenance in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

U.S. NAVY/MCS3 DANIEL JACKSON NORGART



## INSIDE



### ASIA

Criminal charges are filed against former President Benigno Aquino III.

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### WORLD

The Egyptian who stabbed two German women first sat and spoke to them.

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### LIFE & STYLE

One of South Korea's hottest YouTube stars is a 70-year-old grandmother.

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## Local

## Kensington unveils infinity pool in 1st anniversary



Guests cut the ribbon last Saturday during the grand opening of Kensington's infinity pool.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, initiates the toast during the first anniversary of Kensington last Saturday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The Kensington Hotel celebrated its first anniversary last Saturday with the official unveiling of a newly built infinity pool.

The pool was built on the fourth floor of the hotel and stretched to overlook the ocean—features that have not been done on the island before.

Matthew Park, CEO of the Saipan business chain of the E-Land Group, which owns Kensington, said he was amazed that it has already been a year since opening the hotel and in disbelief at how fast time flies.

According to Park, the hotel has only solidified its presence since it first opened and its first anniversary showcased just that.

E-Land also owns the Coral Ocean Point Resort and Spa and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Kensington's first year

last Saturday was marked with an elegant celebration that included the unveiling of the infinity pool, bringing in guest performers, and an extended fireworks show that was the highlight of the evening.

The Korean non-verbal comedic group called "Nanta" entertained guests by incorporating the traditional Samul Nori rhythm into its performance.

The fireworks show itself lasted over seven minutes and was the most awaited part of the evening.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion believes that Kensington Hotel will only continue to grow and has the potential to attract more tourists to the CNMI.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who led the guests in a toast, congratulated Kensington for putting Saipan front and center as a tourist destination and its staff for their quality service.

## As Matuis, Susupe lots reclassified

A total of 21 As Matuis and Susupe lots have changed classifications.

Eleven lots in As Matuis were reclassified from residential to tourist resort areas, while 10 lots in Susupe were reclassified from village residential to village commercial.

The reclassifications happened with the passage of Saipan Local Laws 20-05 and 20-06, signed into law by Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, the acting governor at the time.

The rezoning of the lots allow for certain establishments such as resort hotels, shops, and other businesses to set up in these areas.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-

Saipan), who authored two of the bills, said that the bills were enacted with the comments and recommendations of the Zoning board.

"In the Zoning law, every zone has restrictions and prohibitions. When you are in a village residential, you are not allowed to build a hotel, but in a village commercial, you are allowed to," said Sablan, explaining that the point of the rezoning was to allow developers to come in that could help improve public infrastructures as well.

Sablan said the Zoning Office often receives numerous proposals from developers and investors. *(Erwin Encinares)*

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# Farrell doubts theory of Earhart's captivity on Saipan

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

A local historian has expressed doubts about claims that famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart was imprisoned and ultimately died on Saipan with her navigator, Fred Noonan.

Earhart was the first female aviator to fly across the Atlantic Ocean and the first female to attempt to circumnavigate the earth. Earhart mysteriously disappeared on July 2, 1937, on her flight across the Pacific Ocean. For over 80 years, theories of possible answers to what happened to

Earhart has surfaced.

The History Channel aired *Amelia Earhart: The Lost Evidence* last July 9. It surmised that Earhart and Noonan were held captive on Saipan and died in the hands of the Japanese who ruled the island of Saipan in 1937.

The documentary showcased a photo that purported to show Earhart and Noonan on the Marshall Islands before they were brought to Saipan. The documentary also showcased interviews with Saipan residents who claim to have seen Earhart.

The evidence shown in

the documentary is a photo that was retrieved from the U.S. National Archives. It allegedly features Earhart with her back to the camera and Noonan.

Local historian Don Farrell, however, does not believe that.

Farrell, who has written several books on the history of Saipan and Guam, said it was not unlikely for Caucasians to have been seen on the island of Saipan during that era because Germans, Russians, Frenchmen, and even Americans were openly

conducting business related errands on the island.

"It was not unusual to have Caucasian people visiting Micronesia in the era before July 1937. Germans, Russians, French, and Americans were all doing business out here," said Farrell in an email interview.

Farrell said that Earhart's

hairstyle was also quite popular during the era and it is more than likely that many other women took up her style.

"Amelia was a hugely popular woman, due to the publicity given to her by her husband, G. P. Putnam's. Other worldly women would have copied her style," said Farrell.

Farrell does not believe in the conspiracy theories regarding Earhart's death and he most certainly does not believe in the theory that Earhart was held captive on Saipan.

"I do not believe in conspiracy theories. There is no evidence of either Amelia or Noonan surviving the wreck. They went down with the airplane when it ran out of gas, simple as that," said Farrell.

## Guam residents to visit Fena Cave

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—As part of Liberation Day events, a site visit will be held at the Fena Cave located at the Naval Munitions Annex on U.S. Naval Base Guam on July 19.

The visit, coordinated between Naval Base Guam and the Agat Mayor's Office, will precede a memorial held for Fena Cave Massacre victims at Old Agat Cemetery.

After the cave visit, a memo-

rial will be held at the cemetery.

On July 19, 1944 the Fena Cave Massacre occurred, when Japanese soldiers killed more than 30 young men and women from Agat and Sumay with grenades and bayonets in the caves near Fena Lake. During the past several years, the NBG commanding officer has invited the victims' families to visit the cave as part of Liberation Day ceremonies. (PR)

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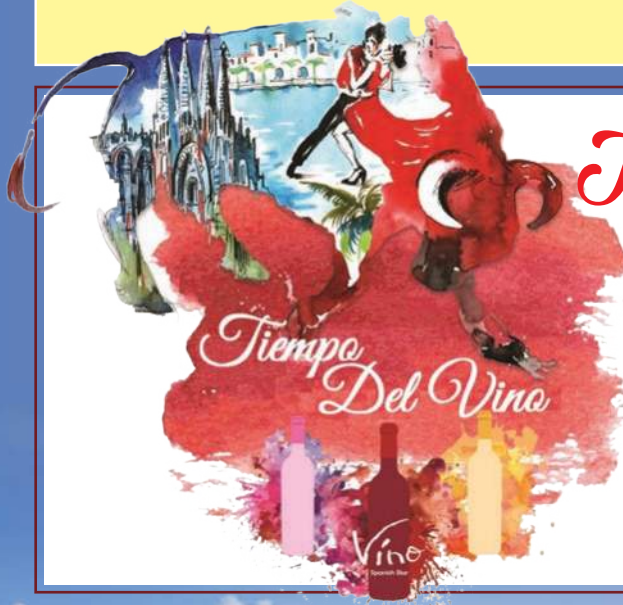
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# Former garment workers reunite



Former garment workers pose for a photo during a reunion yesterday at the Micro Beach in Garapan.  
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

Former garment workers who still reside on Saipan met up for a small reunion at Micro Beach in Garapan yesterday.

Morena Makiling Khan, who organized the informal get-together, said the event was an occasion for former garment workers from different factories to get in touch

with former friends and colleagues and to catch up on how life has been since the garment industry on island closed down.

According to Khan, this is the second reunion she has hosted for former garment workers and it seems it won't be the last, as it was attended not just by former garment workers but also by family members of former workers.

Many were thrilled to reunite with their former colleagues and friends that they have not seen for many years. Khan herself was thrilled to see the many familiar faces she had not seen for 20 years.

Khan said the garment industry brought in thousands of Filipino, Chinese, Thai, and other ethnic overseas workers. Since the last garment factory in the Com-

monwealth shut down, the island has depended solely on tourism as a source of revenue.

The islands once thrived on the garment industry, which was not only a revenue source for the island; it was also responsible for the hiring of over a thousand contract workers, according to Khan.

The first garment factory on Saipan was established in

1983 and served as a gateway for the establishment of over 36 garment factories. The death of the industry in the CNMI marked the end of an era that generated over \$40 million a year for the Commonwealth.

Since then, the islands have sold themselves as a tourist destination, luring in mostly tourists from nearby Asian countries.

Although there are similarities and differences between the industries that generate income for the Commonwealth then and now, one thing is certain and it is that the garment industry era is in the past and the tourism industry is the current booming industry of the Commonwealth.

## SENATE

From Page 1

President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) as members.

"The Senate [felt] like the committee had to be set up to address anything and everything to do with the gaming industry in the CNMI," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

"In this case, [it's relating to] resort operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, because of the magnitude of the gaming industry here in the CNMI."

According to Hofschneider, the Senate first discussed the idea of forming the committee as a whole before unanimously passing it prior to the appointment of the committee chair and vice chair.

The Senate gaming committee has been functioning since July 11.

The committee could not be less than a five-man body and is responsible for the consideration and the reporting of all bills, resolutions, and other

matters referred to it by the Senate relating to the gaming industry in the CNMI.

Hotel casinos, poker machines, electronic gaming establishments, internet gaming establishments, and all other gaming activities are included in the scope of the committee.

The committee also concerns the impact of the gaming industry and its effects on the community, including the implication of regulatory mechanisms, revenue collection, community welfare, as well as consumer protection.

The House counterpart is currently chaired by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and is composed of Reps. Edwin Aldan (R-Saipan) as vice chairman, Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (R-Saipan), Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), and minority leader Edmund Villagomez (R-Saipan) as members.

The House counterpart has been in effect since the swearing in of lawmakers in early 2017.

## DEAD

From Page 1

withheld the victim's name pending notification of the next of kin.

Tarkong said yesterday that police responded to the peace park last Friday at 10pm after receiving a call about a missing fisherman.

Tarkong said police met with witnesses and learned that the missing fisherman started fishing with another local male that day at 8pm in the ocean west of the park.

Later that night, the partner could not locate the victim so he swam to shore and asked for help.

After police were contacted, DPS Boating Safety Unit launched its Zodiac II rescue boat, which found the victim's body floating near the park Saturday at 1:31am.

The victim's body was then brought to CHC. It was not

immediately known if there will be an autopsy on his body.

He is reportedly the fourth drowning victim in the CNMI ocean/beach this year.

Last June 13, a 15-year-old Korean male student reportedly drowned while spearfishing at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and DPS Boating Section Unit personnel found the boy's body floating in the channel late afternoon that day.

Last May 4, a 71-year-old Korean man drowned while swimming at the beach of Kensington Hotel in San Roque, while a 50-year-old Japanese man also drowned while scuba diving at Laulau Bay.

Last Jan. 26, 53-year-old Isidro Wabol, a Carolinian man who had gone swimming, was later found dead outside the reef at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

## IN HILLBROOM'S LEGAL MALPRACTICE SUIT:

# Lujan seeks delay of taking Hillbroom's deposition

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

David J. Lujan has asked the federal court to change its schedule so he could take the deposition of his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom.

Citing a number of cases he is handling, Lujan said it is unreasonable for him to depose Hillbroom in the latter's lawsuit against him and attorney Barry J. Israel any earlier than November 2017.

Last Feb. 21, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Aug. 1, 2017, as deposition notice deadline, Sept. 29, 2017 as conclusion of witness depo-

sitions, and Feb. 6, 2018, as jury selection and trial, among other schedules.

Lujan asked the court to reschedule at least the first five dates in order that he may depose Hillbroom.

Lujan noted that plaintiff is serving a 60-day sentence in Palau and is expected to be released on Aug. 17, 2017.

The lawyer said Hillbroom has not been available to be deposed at mutually convenient times.

Further, Lujan cited that he is scheduled to go to trial as defense counsel in six cases.

Israel recently also expressed doubt how the lawsuit can proceed given Hillbroom's 60-day prison term and a pending drug case in Palau.

Israel, through counsel Theodore W. Frank, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI and the parties in Hillbroom's lawsuit are in no better position now to determine how the Palau criminal cases will impede this civil case than they were at the last hearing on Feb. 21, 2017.

Frank said Hillbroom has a history of missing flights to Saipan and that Israel and Lujan have been trying to take his deposition for years.

Deposition refers to taking of a witness' testimony outside of court.

Hillbroom recently plead-

ed guilty to escape in the second degree before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division and was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom. He was recaptured in Palau hours after he escaped from police's custody on Feb. 9, 2016, just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of \$160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom.

## CHC

From Page 1

week was about our vision of offering some services such as transitioning to out-patient. Currently, we handle in-patient pharmacy. While the patient is under our care, we administer in-patient medication. ... When CHC transition to an out-patient service, there is continuity in our service from in-patient to the out-patient side."

"With this system, an out-patient pharmacy will be able to look at a patient's medical and medication history, therefore guaranteeing that the medication prescribed or given is based on patients' statistics."

CHC and PHI Pharmacy currently do not have that system and the records they keep is not shared.

Muña said another reason for expanding CHC's out-patient pharmacy service is the opportunity to generate income that will improve the operations and service of the hospital.

"Having an out-patient service is an opportunity for CHC to save, generate revenue, and ultimately reduce our cost. In areas where you can't reduce the cost, we find ways to generate revenue that will offset the cost."

"The hospital cafeteria, for example. We have available food for patients that is required by [the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare

Services] and the dietary department. The challenge for us is how do you make that department—a requirement by a regulation—become an income generating entity?"

"We've manage to reduce some expenses and then we realized that a lot of the expenses are because of regulatory requirements. Regulations and requirements are expensive to comply with, that's why healthcare is expensive. We want to offset those by generating our own income so that healthcare in the CNMI will be affordable for everyone," Muña said.

CHC intends to provide healthcare that is in tune with the changing times.

"We are thinking on a glob-

al scale. We have got to be prepared. We are not only looking at pharmacy per se; this is really about planning for the future. Right now, we have a pending healthcare bill in the U.S. Senate, the American Healthcare Act. If you really look at it, there may be some changes that will affect the CNMI. Whatever the result is in the U.S. legislation, change in the healthcare model is inevitable and we at CHC are preparing for that," Muña added.

She said Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) plans to put out a resolution to support CHCC for the 340-B enrolment and Muña firmly believes that if there is an opportunity, there will be benefits for the community.



# Firefighter is arrested for alleged domestic spat

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A firefighter allegedly shattered the window of a house in Dandan, causing an inch-long gash on his former girlfriend's temple and another inch-long cut on her right forearm early Thursday morning.

After breaking the glass window with a punch, Kaegel Tebuteb Taitano, 24, allegedly told the bloodied victim "that's what you get" before leaving on a pickup truck.

Taitano was arrested later that morning on charges of assault and battery, criminal mischief,

and disturbing the peace.

When a police officer arrived at the house at 3:21am, the officer saw blood on the victim's head and right forearm. An ambulance brought the alleged victim to the Commonwealth Health Center, where she got six stitches on her left temple and several stitches on the right arm. She also had several small cuts on the neck.

On Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on Taitano; preliminary hearing is on July 21 at 1:30pm.

The court will appoint a private counsel for Taitano as he is a former employee of the Office of the Public Defender, which creates a potential conflict of interest.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid appeared for the government.

The Department of Public Safety Central sent a police officer on Thursday at 3:11am to a house in Dandan in response to an alleged domestic violence incident.

After seeing the victim, the officer also observed the front window of the house was shattered and broken pieces

of glass were inside the house. The officer noticed that a picnic table in front of the house had been flipped over.

The victim was brought to CHC at 3:36am.

The alleged victim told police that she was sleeping with her 7-year-old son when she heard a loud banging from one of the windows near the door to her house.

The victim got out of the room, looked out the window, and saw Taitano. She was surprised because she and Taitano had been separated for about a month now.

Taitano asked her to open

the door but she refused because she was scared as he was cussing at her and banging the window with his hand.

She told Taitano to go home. Taitano then punched the window, causing the glass to break.

As she was standing close to the window, Taitano's punch struck her on the left temple, causing her injuries.

Taitano then left the house. The victim called the police.

The victim's mother, who lives behind her daughter's house, told police that she was sleeping when she heard a very loud noise at about 3am and saw Taitano walking toward the truck and leaving.

The mother woke up her

husband and told him that Taitano was there. The couple headed to their daughter's house, where they saw her covered in blood all over her face, neck, chest, and clothes.

The mother said her daughter appeared in shock and was crying and shaking.

The mother said her daughter stated that she did not call them because it happened so quickly.

The father said that when he checked his grandson inside the room, the boy appeared scared. He told the grandson to go back into the room because he does not want him to see his mother injured and also due to broken glass on the floor.



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# House panel chair sees benefit of outpatient pharmacy

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
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REPORTER

House Committee on Health chair Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) is “leaning toward supporting” an outpatient pharmacy at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Itibus, whose committee entertained a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. presentation of its outpatient pharmacy idea last week, said he is all for the idea if it will help the hospital service provider generate revenue.

“We’ve got to understand that CHCC was given the responsibility to generate revenue,” he said. “Let us give them the chance to let them prove to us that the system of an outpatient pharmacy they would be implementing [would work]. ...They are giving us pretty promising figures.”

CHCC officials have yet to make a similar presentation to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, chaired by Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota).

Santos declined to comment without more information.

At a Senate hearing Thursday on the CHCC budget, Fiscal Affairs Committee member Sen. Justo Quitugua

(Ind-Saipan) said he was interested in the financials of the outpatient pharmacy.

“They are still in the planning stage and they are still working on it, so they have not yet completed their plan with the pharmacy,” he said.

According to Quitugua, Muña said the outpatient pharmacy is a potential revenue source.

“We would like to see the plan. We would like to see that whatever plan they decide [to push through], it would work to benefit the people of the CNMI and at the same time generate additional revenue to improve [healthcare] services,” he said.

Quitugua reportedly asked Muña to submit a copy of the outpatient pharmacy plan once it is finalized.

Muña has been pushing for CHC’s own outpatient

pharmacy, citing the benefits for both the hospital and the patients in terms of improved care, low cost, and the possibility to generate revenue.

According to Muña, CHCC is reportedly eligible to apply for the 340B pricing structure, a federal program that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible healthcare organizations or entities, allowing it to sell prescription medicine at a lower cost while earning for the hospital.

According to Quitugua, the plan may also reduce the number of people who avail of off-island medical referral.

## IN FAILED UB40 BAND’CONCERTS ON SAIPAN, GUAM

Hawaii resident says he did not receive benefit, pushes his dismissal from suit

A former CNMI resident now based in Honolulu has asked the federal court to dismiss him from a lawsuit over a UB40 concert that did not happen.

Jason H. Aldan, through counsel Robert T. Torres, insisted that Steven Brownstein has not alleged any facts to show that he was enriched and benefited from the cancelled concert.

In Aldan’s motion to dismiss, Torres pointed out that Brownstein’s claim that Aldan used the money for his personal use is not only contradicted by his complaint, “it is nothing more than a conclusory allegation.”

Citing precedent, Torres said the court is not bound by speculations and unwarranted conclusions.

Last April, Brownstein, who owns Steven Brownstein Entertainment, sued Aldan and Fredric Holloman and 10 unnamed co-defendants for allegedly defrauding him of \$115,000 by misrepresenting that they will have the reggae and pop band UB40 perform in Guam and on Saipan in 2015.

Brownstein is suing Aldan and Holloman for fraud, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment.

According to the lawsuit, Aldan is involved in the entertainment business as Raw-

CandyHawaii. Holloman, a California resident, is allegedly with Shae Entertainment/Management in La Jolla, California.

Brownstein asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages, interest, and court costs.

According to the lawsuit, on June 2, 2015, Brownstein signed a contract with Holloman to have UB40 perform on Saipan and in Guam.

In Aldan’s motion to dismiss, Torres said Brownstein has not pleaded any facts that rise above the level of speculation that Aldan knew or believed that the matter was not as he represented.

Torres said Brownstein’s single factual allegation of misrepresentation regarding Aldan is that the latter misrepresented to Brownstein that the deposit had been made to UB40 and UB40 would perform on Saipan and Guam.

Torres said Brownstein has not pleaded a single fact to show that Aldan knew or believed that the deposit had not been made to UB40 and that UB40 would not be coming to Saipan or Guam.

The lawyer said Brownstein has alleged that Aldan put the deal together but has not alleged any contractual relation-

ship with Aldan.

Torres said Brownstein’s contract was with Holloman.

He said Brownstein affirms that he wired \$37,000 to Aldan, which the latter wired to Holloman two days later.

Based on these facts, Torres said, Brownstein claims Aldan conspired with Holloman and other defendants to defraud Brownstein.

“Factual allegations must rise above the level of mere speculation,” Torres said.


Torres said in order to meet the pleading requirements of fraud, Brownstein’s complaint must state the time, place, and specific content of the false representations, as well as the identities of the parties to the misrepresentation.

Torres said Brownstein has not indicated the dates or times of any of Aldan’s alleged misrepresentation.

He said Brownstein has not alleged where Aldan’s alleged misrepresentations took place.

Torres said unjust enrichment requires that the allegedly enriched person receive a benefit.

Torres said Brownstein has already established that Aldan sent the \$37,000 to Holloman in California and that it was Holloman who had the money and kept it. (**Ferdie De La Torre**)



**Board of Trustees**  
**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

**CHCC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**July 20, 2017 5:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

IX.

X.

XI.

Call to Order

Public Comments

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Reports

Management & Operations

Financial Statements

Budget

Presentation on 340B Program

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Executive Session

Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756

Limes, Vincent & Ina  
P.O. Box 501942 CK  
785-0833

*Pro se*


**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter Of	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL
The Adoption Of:	)	ACTION
	)	NO. 17-0248
Maria Joannie I. Ruben	)	
Minor Child	)	
	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
By:	)	
	)	
Limes, Vincent & Ina	)	
Petitioner(s)	)	


Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 7th day of August 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Govendo

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

/s/ By: Patrick V. Diaz,  
Deputy Clerk of Court



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net  
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 8:00am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Commonwealth Health Center, Conference Room #02.

**AGENDA**

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

Meeting Call to Order

Determination of Quorum

Review and Adoption of Agenda

**Executive Session:** The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.


Resolution of HCPLB Case # 2017-002

Announcements


Next Meeting Date

Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH  
Chairman



**COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856  
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission (“Commission”), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes: May 31, 2017 and June 29, 2017

**REPORTS:**

Report by the Chairman

Report by the Executive Director

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS – Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:**

Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel

Updated Status of Transition on the Live Gaming Operations from BSL to IPR

Personnel Training and Recruitment of U.S. Workers

Responsible Gaming Program

Other Miscellaneous Matters

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Notification of Provisional Casino Key Employee (“CKE”) License:

Mr. Kin Ming Wong (“Timon”) – Director, Projects and Facility Management: Issued on 07/12/17

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Report by the Legal Counsel


DPAC - Updates

IPI Financial Matters


**ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan  
Chairman



**Commonwealth Development Authority**  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147  
www.developcnmi.com



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**July 12, 2017**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. the meeting will be held at the CDA conference room, first floor, CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan. The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

**AGENDA**

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**REPORTS**

Executive Director's Report

Administrative/Personnel Matters

Loan Matters

Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters

Comptroller's Report

Legal Counsel's Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

Housing Financing

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bank of Guam Investment

ADFIAP Conference/Micronesia Challenge

CNMI State Bank Bill

**Other Matters**

**Executive Session**

**Adjournment**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **IGNACIO L. PEREZ**  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



## HUD makes \$2B available for homeless programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In an effort to prevent and effectively end homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is making \$2 billion available to support thousands of local homeless assistance programs nationwide.

Funded through the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program, HUD's funding notice continues to encourage local applicants to use a Housing First approach to help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing.

HUD's Continuum of Care homeless assistance grants support a wide variety of local programs, from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for individuals, including, veterans, youth, families, and persons experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness.

"We know these grants can make a huge difference in ending homelessness," said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. "HUD continues to forge deep

relationships with our local partners to invest in proven programs that are working to reduce the scale of homelessness in their communities."

HUD continues to place a major emphasis on ending homelessness for all persons

experiencing homelessness, creating a systematic response to homelessness and improving how resources are used to end homelessness. These priorities will make it much more competitive and increase incentives for communities to improve their performance. As part of these priorities, HUD is continuing incentives to adopt best practices for rapid-rehousing and Housing First, an approach that has proven effective in helping communities to make progress on their goal of ending homelessness.

Additionally, HUD is encouraging communities to end veteran, chronic, family, and youth homelessness and to

use their data to strategically target their available resources to end homelessness. Finally, to help communities reach these goals,

there is greater flexibility provided to create a variety of new projects that will allow recipients to serve different populations of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as well as to support increased data collection and analysis.

HUD requires prospective grantees to submit applications electronically at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Any changes to HUD-published funding notices will be made available to the public through a Federal Register publication and published on this government-wide portal. Applicants are urged to sign up for grants.gov's notification service to receive periodic updates or changes to these grant offerings. The application deadline is Sept. 28, 2017. (HUD)

### » Funding notice encourages local applicants to use Housing First approach

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Military training at FDM today

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, July 17, from 9am to 4:30pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

### Free kid and teen camps this summer

Church 360 will be hosting a free Kids' Camps on July 17-20, from 9am to noon, at Church 360 for ages 4-11. Kagman Community Church will also be hosting the same Kids' Camps on July 24-27, from 9am to noon.

Church 360 will also be hosting free Teen Sports Clinics on July 17-20, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Kagman Community Church will also host the same Teen Sports Clinics on July 24-27, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Kagman II basketball court and field. The Kagman Basketball Clinic will also be open to high school boys.

Transportation is available for the Kagman events to any students in Kagman if they call ahead. Email [flybjew@yahoo.com](mailto:flybjew@yahoo.com) or call 256-8171 and ask for Joy to pre-register and reserve a spot or for more information. (PR)

### Youth fishing derby on Rota on July 23

The Rota Mayor's Office will

be hosting a youth fishing derby at the Teteto Beach on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm. Interested participants must fill out application forms at the Rota Mayor's Office. Participants must be ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. There will be an orientation at the Teteto Pavilion on Sunday, July 23, at 8:30am. Cash prizes will be given to the participant who collects the most number of fish. Prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for

third place. (MVA)

### MyPROS to host July 22 gala

The Marianas Young Professionals will host a White Beach Gala at the Surf Club on July 22. Tickets can be purchased from any Events Committee member. Tickets previously bought are still honored for the new date. For more information, check out MYPros Facebook page at [facebook.com/mypros670/](http://facebook.com/mypros670/). (PR)



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# 'Underwater 30 Meters' TV shoots in the Marianas



The talent and crew of Taiwan's "Underwater 30 Meters" join Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, center, and other representatives of the MVA at a welcome dinner on June 2, 2017, at Hyatt Regency Saipan.



The hosts of Taiwan's "Underwater 30 Meters" prepare to dive at Laulau Beach on Saipan on June 2, 2017.

MVA

The Grotto, Blue Hole, and Managaha are all award-winning dive spots in the Marianas and just the beginning of a list of underwater shore, boat, wreck, and night dives awaiting the eager diver. These sites and more have attracted the focus of Taiwanese dive show "Underwater 30 Meters," which has just wrapped up 13 days of filming on Saipan and Tinian.

The show follows TV host and model Pei-yu "Patty" Lee, renowned underwater photographer Yorko Summer, and 2016 Marianas intern Jeff Chen as they explore the underwater wonders of the islands.

The MVA hosted a welcome dinner for the production team on June 2, 2017, at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

On Saipan, the group filmed at popular dive sites including the Grotto, Managaha, Banzai Cliff, Laulau Beach, dive site Ice Cream, Naftan Beach,

Obyan Beach, Spotlight, and Tanapag Lagoon.

Other activities filmed include the Garapan Street Market, the summit of Mt. Tapochao, bojobo doll-making, a sunset view from the mountains at Baron Villa, and a sunset dinner cruise.

On Tinian, the group filmed additional dive sites, took a self-piloted airplane tour, visited Taga Beach, and took in the sunset.

"[On] Monday night [June 10], the show producer hosted a 'thank you' dinner for the crew and their local dive guides from Ocean Plus. He expressed appreciation for the professionalism and knowledge of the guides, and he was pleased to complete the shoot on time with minimal concerns," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "With the success of this show, we will not only open the underwater world of



The hosts of Taiwan's "Underwater 30 Meters" prepare to take a swim at Taga Beach on Tinian on June 1, 2017.

MVA

the Marianas to divers from Taiwan, but we have also set an example for being an interesting and conducive location for underwater filming."

During their stay, the show posted 11 video clips on their Facebook page and received 20,000 views. The television show on the Marianas is an-

anticipated to be watched by 40,000 viewers when it airs later this year.

The group lodged at Grandvrio Resort Saipan during their visit and was assisted by MVA marketing specialist Laura Hsaio and PR & marketing manager Steven Cheng of the MVA's Taiwan office. (MVA)

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Registration at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is reminding that all students, new and returning, must register for school year 2017-2018.

Returning students must submit a registration form, medical clearance (blue card), and student insurance.

In addition to the three requirements, new students must submit their birth certificate, copy of last report card from the previous school year, transfer out form (if applicable), and map of residence.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School school zone is south of DPA Car Mart to Koblerville (south of St. Jude Church) and includes the As Gonno area.

All registration forms must be submitted at the office. Upon submission, the office staff will provide free meal applications.

The school supplies lists are available at National Office, Modern Stationary, and at FMS Middle School. (PR)

### WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate, updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. (PR)

### GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year

2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. (PR)

### OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. (PR)

### MHS registration ongoing

Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit [www.marianashighschool.com](http://www.marianashighschool.com) for more information. (PR)

### SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. (PR)

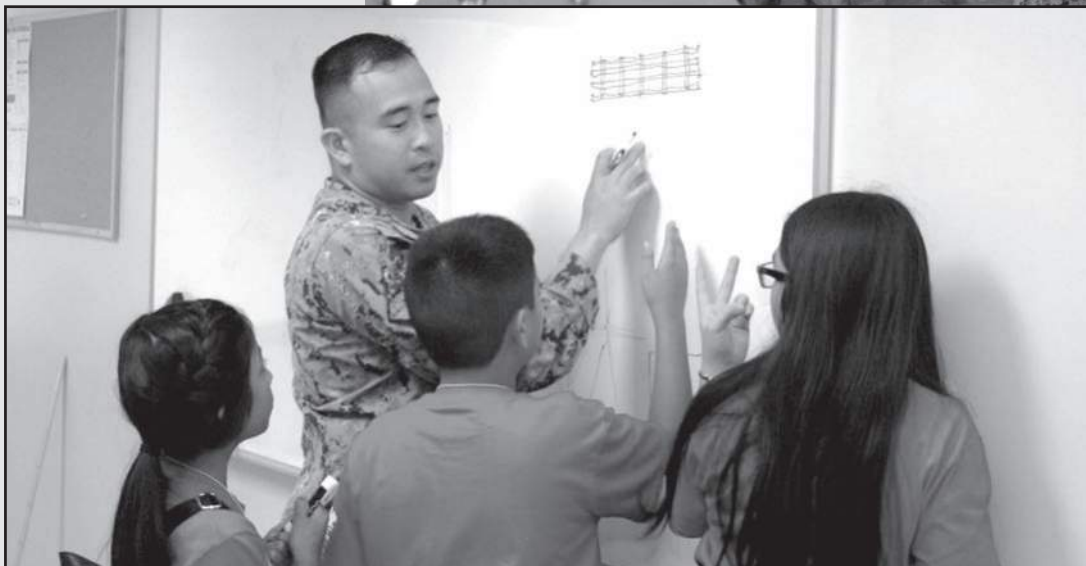
### KHS registration

Kagman High School is accepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from <https://goo.gl/x2KvcL>. (PR)

## STEM CAMP

Lt. Hadi Mirsadeghi introduces himself to the campers at the STEM Camp at the University of Guam on July 8. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas and the Guam post of the Society of Military Engineers hosted their first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Camp, which featured fun and educational demonstrations and activities.

NAVFAC MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Lt. J.G. Randy Olaes helps campers with a straw-bridge building activity designed to teach engineering principles at the STEM Camp at the University of Guam in Mangilao on July 8.

NAVFAC MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



# MVA moves ahead with tour guide certification

The Marianas Visitors Authority is moving ahead with the Marianas' tour guide certification program, a legally mandated requirement for all tour guides.

Last July 11, the MVA board of directors adopted

## NMC to host Project PROA summer camp

The Project PROA program at Northern Marianas College is inviting high school students to enroll in its weeklong summer camp program, which begins July 24.

The one-week camp aims to provide students with an opportunity to strengthen their ties to their cultural heritage as well as improve their reading, writing, and math skills.

Participants of the Project PROA summer camp program will engage in morning academic sessions from 8:30am to 12pm and afternoon cultural activities from 1pm to 3pm with 500 Sails, a non-profit corporation. Each day will include presentations about the history of the canoes in the Marianas, swimming/sailing, and observation of the canoe-building process.

To qualify for the camp, participants must be an incoming senior at the high school level and self-identify as Chamorro and/or Carolinian, per grant requirements. Preference will be given to ongoing Project PROA participants who have previously taken the NMC English and math placement

tests. All others interested must be program eligible to participate. Participation is absolutely free with lunch and snacks provided as well.

The Project PROA program coordinators are working closely with the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute to facilitate the enrichment portion of the camp, which will allow participants to develop the essential skills needed to place in college level English and math.

Seats are slowly filling up on Saipan and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis so interested students are highly encouraged to visit the PROA Center in Building I at the NMC Saipan campus, between 8am and 5pm. Forms are available on site or online at [www.marianas.edu/project-proa.php](http://www.marianas.edu/project-proa.php) and must be submitted no later than Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 4pm.

For more information, contact Kaelani Demapan, Project PROA program coordinator, by phone at (670) 237-6777 or by email at [projectproa@marianas.edu](mailto:projectproa@marianas.edu). (NMC)

## Sherwin Williams to hold BOGO promo

The Department of Public Works through the Energy Division, in coordination with Pacific Rainbow, Inc. (dba Sherwin Williams) will be promoting an elastomeric roof coating promotion on Saturday, July 22, 2017, from 8am to 12pm.

The Energy Star elastomeric roof coating BOGO is buy one primer Lexis Eguard aromatic urethane 5-gallon pail and get one Lexis Emax silicon white 5-gallon elastomeric roof coating free, with a limit of three purchases per utility account holder. Items are limited so it will be based on first come, first served basis.

This promo is only available to residential consumers

who must provide most recent utility billing. Residents who has landlord name on utility billing must provide lease agreement.

Energy director Thelma Inos encourages everyone to improve home energy efficiency with Energy Star products that can help to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort and help to protect the environment.

For questions or information regarding this promotion you may contact the Energy Division at 664-4480/4.

This project funding is made possible by grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program. (PR)

## CUC water outage extended

The water service interruption in As Lito, As Perdido, Airport Road Dandan, Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, and Kobleville was extended until Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. completed the waterline repair on the six-inch transmission main on Exploring Drive, Dandan at approximately 5:30am Friday morning. Due to the length of

time needed to refill the tank, water service in the affected areas resumed Saturday, July 15, as per regular water service schedule but is subject to change due to the tank's water level.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

plications for the program.

"Tour guide certification is an important and much-needed program on multiple levels for both visitors and our community—accuracy of information, safety, regulatory compliance, and more," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA has sought the input of licensed tour guides in developing the program, and we have recently received an updated legal opinion that now allows us to proceed with implementing the program, even as we continue to consider

public comments and continue to work with the Legislature to ensure the enabling legislation is as strong as necessary. We thank the Legislature for agreeing with the tourism industry that tour guide certification is needed, and we are ready to start the program and make adjustments as we go, when necessary."

Once the proposed regulations are adopted, the MVA will begin accepting applications for certification.

When an application and accompanying documentation are approved, applicants

will be scheduled for a class at Northern Marianas College where they will learn about the regulations, history, culture, and more of the Marianas.

Along with their application, tour guides will be required to provide: 1) proof of eligibility to work in the Marianas, 2) police clearance, 3) driver's license, and 4) certification of employment under a licensed tour operator and/or business license.

"The purpose of the tour guide certification program is to ensure that visitors are being cared for by licensed,

knowledgeable, and responsible tour guides. The day of fly-by-night tour guides is coming to an end," said Concepcion. "Under the current law, the MVA and other government agencies are responsible for enforcement. However, we are communicating with other enforcement offices about having the best trained offices with more personnel who can enforce the program most effectively undertake these duties. We will also allow our security guards stationed at major tourist sites to act as enforcement officials."

The proposed regulations will be published in the *Commonwealth Register* on July 28, 2017. (MVA)

coming soon



AUGUST 19 - NOVEMBER 11, 2017  
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- ↓ Download the form from our Facebook page,
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3RD PLACE	\$1,000
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Tan Holdings

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f Tan Siu Lin Foundation



# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### Latest version of Trumpcare still terrible



**C**ongressional Republicans have just produced their latest version of Trumpcare. On the plus side, this one gives up on earlier proposals to repeal three taxes that the Affordable Care Act imposes on the wealthy, making it a bit less fiscally reckless. On the minus side, it's still a terrible plan.

It's designed to drastically weaken America's health security—and it's therefore a woeful alternative to Obamacare. Exactly how much worse won't be known until next week, when the Congressional Budget Office issues its evaluation. What's clear right now is that moderate Republicans in the Senate should reject it.

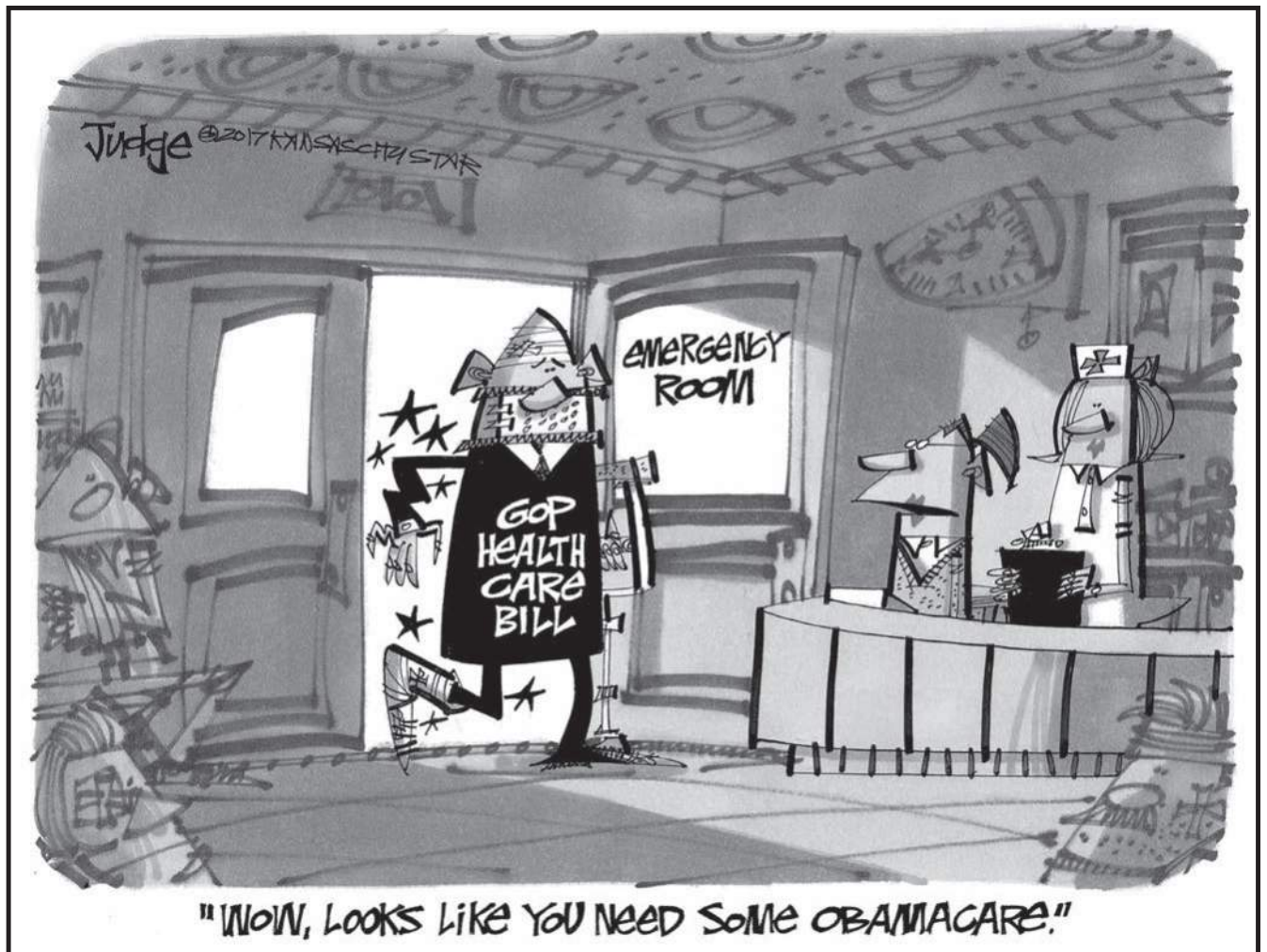
The new bill incorporates Sen. Ted Cruz's idea to let insurers sell cheap policies that fail to cover preventive care and other basic health needs as long as they also sell ACA-approved plans on the exchanges. This probably would, as intended, lower premiums for healthy people who buy the cheap policies. But where would these people turn when they get sick and discover their insurance covers little to none of their expenses?

Meanwhile, as the ACA-approved plans attract the less healthy, their premiums would rise to unaffordable levels. Trumpcare 4.0 offers an extra \$70 billion to help insurers shoulder these people's costs, for a total of \$182 billion over 10 years. But that amount of money is unlikely to be nearly enough to help the system work.

As if all this weren't bad enough, the new Trumpcare bill maintains the old one's plan to gut Medicaid by 35 percent over two decades. The \$45 billion that's been thrown in to cover opioid-addiction treatment over the next 10 years would not undo the damage.

This legislation, like the earlier versions of Trumpcare, is designed not to improve the U.S. health-care system but to solve a political problem for Republicans in Washington. This betrays a shameful sense of priorities. The responsible thing is to make sure the measure doesn't pass.

(c)2017 Bloomberg News



### America is in dire need of some dragons right now

**I**t has been a long year already and I, for one, am ready for some dragons.

Roaring, fire-breathing, snarling, wing-flapping, sheep-and-or-people-eating, scaly, sharp-toothed dragons.

Like most rational Americans, I have spent the past several weeks praying that the world would not end before Sunday's season premiere of HBO's "Game of Thrones."

I need the dragons, man. I need to see some people with giant swords lopping off parts of other people with giant swords while someone called the Mother of Dragons wipes the sand with the men who doubt her. I need some weird magic stuff and some intrigue that doesn't involve the name "Trump."

And my great fear, lo these past many weeks, as I awaited a television show that feels like it last aired 20 years ago, was that something cataclysmic would come along and screw everything up.

The president would accidentally drop a nuke on Canada and the ensuing war would botch up my satellite signal.

The Earth would crash into the sun.

A giant iceberg would break off from Antarctica and destroy the planet. (The first part of that actually happened a couple of days ago, but fortunately the giant hunk of ice lacks planet-destroying capability. Thank God for wimpy giant icebergs.)

'Game of Thrones' premiere. Winter is here.

We have almost made it to the big day, but I'm not counting my dragons until they've hatched in a Dothraki funeral pyre. (Google it.)

Whether you're a fan of the show or not, let me bring you up to speed on what's happening in the "Game of Thrones" world: I have no clue. And I'm not exaggerating. If you strapped me to the Iron Throne and belted me with the hilt of a sword, I could not tell you what is happening in this show that I have watched religiously.

For starters, the last episode, titled "The Winds of Winter," aired more than a year ago. I can't remember what I wrote one paragraph ago (was it something about dragons?), so the odds of me recalling the plot line of a wildly complex fantasy tale I haven't watched since last June are slim to none.

But the truth is that even when I'm watching the show, I have little to no idea what's going on. There are seven kingdoms and umpteen families and key characters dying right and left and a weird kid whose eyes roll up in his head a lot and bad guys who

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Chicago Tribune

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seem good and good guys who seem bad and Lannisters and Targaryens and Baratheons and Kardashians. (Not sure if that last one's right.)

It's baffling. The only way I could possibly figure out what the hell is going on is if I read the George R.R. Martin books the show is based on, but those things are massive and watching television is way better than reading so there's no way that's going to happen.

And you know what? It doesn't matter. About 90 percent of the time I'm not totally clear on what's happening or why someone is chopping something off someone else, but it's still AWE-SOME and I don't care whether it makes a lick of sense.

If you were to transcribe what's happening in my brain during an episode of "Game of Thrones" it would go something like this: "What? What? Who's that? SWORD FIGHT! What? What? Why? HOLY CRAP, IT'S A DRAGON! What? Huh? Why would ... OH MY GOD HIS HEAD GOT CHOPPED OFF! What? NAKED PERSON! What? What? DRAGONS AGAIN! WOO-HOOO!"

So I'm excited for Sunday's season premiere, even though I have no particular idea why I'm excited or what I'm going to see or what lingering questions will be answered. I'm in a state of blissful Westeros ignorance because I gave up long ago trying to understand the show's intricate storylines and settled for just enjoying the heck out of watching some big honking dragons fly around and listening to the thwip-thwip-thwip of arrows killing god knows who.

I know many have a much deeper understanding of "Game of Thrones." I'm sure I sound unworthy to those folks, and for that I apologize.

But life is complicated on its own, and my brain is tired. And I like seeing dragons soar across the sky, for whatever reason.

So please—please, please, please—let the world keep spinning until Sunday night. I, and I'd venture to say most Americans, need a fantasy fix and the joy that can only come from watching a fire-belching dragon wipe out a phalanx of ... I don't know ... Lannisters? Urlachers?

Whatever.

My brain hurts. Just show me some darn dragons.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## West can neither live with nor take out North Korean nukes

**N**orth Korea recently test-launched a long-range missile capable of reaching Alaska.

When North Korea eventually builds a missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, it will double down on its well-known shakedown of feigning indifference to American deterrence while promising to take out Los Angeles, San Francisco or Seattle unless massive aid is delivered to Pyongyang.

Kim Jong Un rightly assumes that wealthy Western nations would prefer to pay bribe money than suffer the loss of a city—and that they have plenty of cash for such concessions. He is right that the medicine of taking out Kim's missiles is considered by Western strategists to be even worse than the disease of living with a lunatic regime that has nukes.

No wonder that the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations had few answers to serial North Korean lying and deceit about its nuclear intentions.

Sanctions were eventually dropped or watered down either on reports of the mass starvation of innocent North Korean civilians or on false promises of better North Korean behavior.

China publicly promised to help reign in its unhinged client while privately doing nothing. Apparently, Beijing found a rabid North Korean government useful in bothering rivals such as the Japanese and South Koreans while keeping the U.S. off balance in Asia and the Pacific. The dynamic economies and pacifism of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan were taken for granted by China as easy targets for coercion and blackmail.

Russia is never any help. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russian foreign policy is reductive: Whatever causes the United States and its allies a major headache is by definition welcomed.

There seems to be zero chance of a North Korean coup or a Chinese intervention to remove Kim. The brainwashed North Korean population is cut off from global news and knows nothing other than three generations of Kim family dictators. The military junta that surrounds Kim is likely as aggressive as its leader. These functionaries see his survival as the only guarantee of their own privilege and influence.

A preemptory strike might not get all of North Korea's nuclear missiles and could prompt a conventional response that would wreck nearby Seoul—a scenario about which North Korean openly brags.

Pyongyang believes that only the Israelis are wild enough to preempt and bomb neighboring nuclear facilities, as they did in 1981 against Iraq and again in 2007 against Syria. And yet Israel attacked only because neither Iraq nor Syria had created deterrence by possession of a single deliverable nuclear weapon.

What are the bad choices for the Western alliance in defanging North Korea before it miscalculates and sends a missile that prompts a war?

Sanctions have in the past crippled Pyongyang. But this time around they should not be lifted despite the prospect of ensuing chaos in North Korea. It may be tragic that a captive population

suffers for the lunacy of its leader, but such misery is still preferable to an all-out war.

Nor should China be exempt from accompanying stiff trade restrictions. Almost every weapon component in the hands of North Korea either came directly from China or was purchased by cash earned through Chinese trade and remittances. Certainly, China would not allow South Korea to send missiles its way along with promises of nuking Beijing while the U.S. kept still about the provocation.

Australia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the U.S. need to coordinate a massive missile defense project aimed at ending North Korean assumptions that even one of its missiles has a chance to reach its intended target. Such a Marshall Plan-like investment would also send a message to China that its own nuclear deterrent could be compromised and nullified by the defensive efforts of its immediate neighbors. China has made life difficult for the U.S. and its Asian allies, and it should learn that the allies could make things even more problematic for China.

None of our allies in Asia and the Pacific wish to develop nuclear weapons, both for historic and economic reasons. But the United States should inform Russia and China that allied democracies in the region may choose to develop a nuclear deterrent to stop North Korean antics—a development that would prove disastrous to both Russian and Chinese strategic planning.

**By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

Tribune News Service

*Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and the author, most recently, of The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern. You can reach him by emailing author@victorhanson.com.*



Asia is already a dangerous place, with both Indian and Pakistani nuclear missiles and a likely nuclear Iran in the not-so-distant future. Do Moscow and Beijing wish to add three or four more nuclear powers near their borders?

The current danger is not just limited to North Korea. Iran, a beneficiary of North Korean nuclear assistance, is watching how far Kim can go. It will certainly make the necessary strategic adjustments if he succeeds in shaking down the Western world.

We are nearing an existential showdown, as failed efforts at bribery and appeasement have run their course.

Only a tough, messy confrontation now can prevent a disastrous war later on.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### “Your call is important to us...”

Last evening the power went out again. My daughter and I were having dinner and watching Nancy Drew on Netflix. Then poof: total blackness.

This makes the third day in a row that the power has gone out. Fortunately, we have a candle and a lighter on our kitchen table.

Sometimes we awaken in the morning to see our digital clocks flashing 12:00 and the aircons are off. This means I have to rush around the house, resetting the clocks and turning the aircons back on.

I went to our landline phone (the others are cordless and require electricity) and called CUC.

First I tried the hotline, but it wasn't in service. Then I called the standard CUC repair line and was on hold for a long time.

“Your call is important to us. A representative will be with you shortly...”

Then I heard the standard “music on hold”—the same kind of funky music that Atkins Kroll uses.

“All of our customer service reps are busy. Calls are taken in the order in which they are received.”

Based on my wait time, there were probably dozens of customers ahead of me, also being treated to the ubiquitous “music on hold.” Meanwhile, my candle had burned down half an inch.

I don't know how long I waited, but a woman eventually took my call. She asked me where I lived and I told her As Teo. She said that there was a problem with one of the power generators but that they were working on it.

I told her, as politely as possible, “This is the third day in a row that the power has gone out!” She said that she was aware of the situation and that they were working on it.

As I spoke with her the lights popped back on. By then the food was cold and the TV had shut down.

This is getting old.

Clearly, CUC needs to get its act together, but I have no solution for them. I am not an electrician and don't know the first thing about how power distribution works. If my toaster works I'm happy.

The old diesel generators are decrepit and need to be replaced with a newer and better energy source. The blackouts are more frequent and something needs to be done, and fast. This is not news: there have been blackouts ever since I've lived here. However, lately they have been more numerous—often islandwide.

Although the CUC people are well aware of the problem with the old power plants, and the need for a better energy source, the problem is—as it has always been—lack of financial resources. Whatever the new energy source is, it will cost a lot and take time to get it online.

One thing (which the CUC board has probably considered) is to hire an energy expert, someone who know how to remedy a lousy situation. That person would probably cost money also, but he or she might possibly come up with a credible plan to improve our blackout situation. Without a plan, we're lost.

Until that day comes, eBay has good deals on boxes of candles and disposable lighters.

**Russ Mason**

As Teo, Saipan

## Condolences

Reading the story about the three men who died while working on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sewer makes me really concerned about other CUC workers when they are out in the field. According to the story, they died from inhaling hydrogen sulfide. My question is, were they wearing any protective gear or not? If they were, this accident might not have happened. Accidents do happen and the least we could do is wear safety gear, especially if you work in the field, to make sure accidents like this won't happen again. My deepest condolences to the families of the deceased workers.






**Mackenzie Perez**

Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

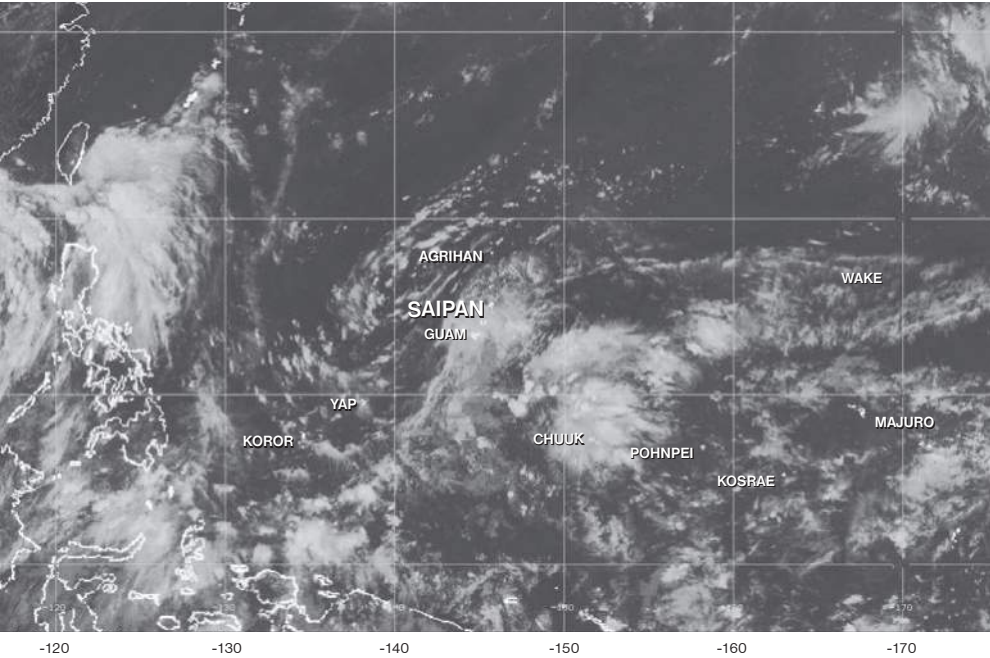


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



### PICTURE TIME: 1:04 PM, SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models move the upper low out to the west today and tonight, but on its heels the disturbance southeast of Guam will bring increased mid and upper level moisture to the region, keeping skies mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms the next few days. Showers may be scattered to numerous at times later this week, but too early to get specific about when that may occur, as the GFS and ECMWF are in poor agreement on that issue.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Rain	59° / 48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 70°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
San Francisco	Windy	63° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	91° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	91° / 74°



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96
8:09 AM	LOW TIDE	0.51
1:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.42
7:34 PM	LOW TIDE	0.64

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:36 PM	-
Tuesday	12:45 AM	1:33 PM	-
Wednesday	1:34 AM	2:32 PM	-
Thursday	2:26 AM	3:34 PM	-
Friday	3:23 AM	4:36 PM	-

#### NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2017							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	U042	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	U042	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
				U042	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				U042	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
				UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# COTA to hold public hearing on new building

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 from 6pm to 7pm at the Tanapag Youth Center for its proposed administrative

building and maintenance facility in Lower Base.

The COTA building will be built in an existing industrial area, which is consistent with the area's land use and zoning requirements. Currently,

the project is in the design phase and is 100-percent federally funded.

Once construction is completed, COTA will relocate from its temporary office at the second floor of the Mari-

anas Business Plaza in Supe to the new building in Lower Base.

"The public, especially nearby businesses and residents, are encouraged to attend the public information hearing. COTA's architectural/engineering consultants will present the 30 percent design progress, including the perspective rendering. COTA hopes that this meeting will



Camacho

gather feedback and answer questions from the public and local regulatory agencies," said Alfreda P. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation.

The final design will focus on the construction of a combined structure with approximately 10,900 square

feet of total floor space. The administrative building will have a reception area for easy customer access, a conference room, and office space for employee and rider interactions, the One-Call/One-Click Center, and restrooms.

The maintenance facility will include two maintenance bays, exterior bus wash station and tool storage. Other proposed site improvements include onsite water storage and distribution, backup emergency generator, paved parking and driveways, sidewalks, landscaping, ponding basins, fencing, and exterior lighting. The entire facility will be designed and constructed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed his support for the new facility, while underscoring the importance of having a one-stop center for residents and riders to access for transportation needs.

"This is another important step for COTA as we continue to finalize our transportation plan," Torres said. "The new public transportation system would help get workers to their jobs and assist those who are looking for job opportunities and give residents an alternative to making their way throughout our island in an environmentally friendly manner. This facility will make it easy for residents to access and interact with our public transportation professionals."

For any questions or would like to learn more about the project, contact COTA at 664-2682. (PR)

## Interior gives \$4M to help CNMI, other US territories eradicate invasive species

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Interior assistant secretary Nikolao Pula made available last week about \$4 million for several invasive species prevention and control initiatives in the U.S. insular areas.

Funding has been provided to continue support in controlling the brown tree snake, *Boiga irregularis*, in Guam and prevent its spread to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, and the larger Micronesian region.

Funding is also provided to combat infestations of the Lopa tree, *Adenanthera pavonina*; to reduce impacts of invasive birds and restore wetland areas on Nu'uuli in American Samoa; and to combat infestations of the little fire ants, *Wasmannia auropunctata*, in Guam.

"Invasive species, of which the brown tree snake is the most widely known in the Pacific region, have had damaging effects on the fragile ecosystems in the islands," said Pula. "It is critical to protect, build resilience, and restore natural resources that provide the foundation for people's livelihood and stability in these islands."

In order to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species as well as to protect and restore natural and cultural resources from the effects of invasive species, the governors of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all signed a memorandum of understanding last December with the Office of Insular Affairs creating the U.S. Territories Invasive Species Coordinating Committee. Each territory has appointed an official to the committee and has published a territorial invasive species management plan.

The Office of Insular Affairs also collaborates closely with the National Invasive Species Council Secretariat.

The secretariat, an interdepartmental body composed of senior federal officials, provides the high-level vision and leadership necessary to sustain and expand federal efforts to safeguard interests of the United States by preventing, eradicating, and controlling invasive species, as well as restoring ecosystems and other assets impact-

### » FY2017 funds to protect against the brown tree snakes, Lopa tree, and little fire ants

ed by invasive species.

On behalf of the Department of the Navy and other relevant federal agencies, the secretariat is coordinating an update to the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii, which is due in March 2018 and every three years thereafter. The RBP update will take the new territory invasive species plans, as well as a recently released Hawaii biosecurity plan, into careful consideration.

The projects funded in 2017 are:

■ **Brown tree snake control and prevention** (\$3,548,057): Funds will be provided for continued coordination of the program, assessment of BTS populations after poisoned bait delivery, as well as control, containment, and rapid response to neighboring islands. The BTS program aims to prevent dispersal of BTS from Guam to other vulnerable geographic areas and to ultimately eradicate existing or newly established populations. Funding includes approximately \$1 million, which was provided at the beginning of the fiscal year to prevent disruption in operations.

From January to March 2017, more than 400 BTS were caught and eliminated. This invasive species, which was inadvertently introduced in Guam during World War II, has caused the extinction of many native and endemic species of birds and lizards on the island, and cascading ecological effects on other native plants and animals. The BTS has also disrupted economic activity by causing power outages, and been dangerous to human infants who have been poisoned by the snake's bite. This collaborative effort involves several federal agencies, state, and territorial governments. These grants are the latest in more than two decades of federal efforts to assist the local government with technical and financial support in BTS eradication.

■ **Eradicate the Lopa tree in American Samoa** (\$397,362): The American Samoa government and the National Park of American Samoa are collaborating to completely eliminate the Lopa tree from approximately 3,058 acres on Ofu and Olosega Islands. This is the final phase of a project that has involved village leaders, community members and youth and has been successful in removing more than 31,454 Tamaligi and Lopa trees across the Tutuila and Ta'u Islands, reclaiming over 14,000 acres of rainforest in American Samoa. The native forests provide critical food and medicinal resources, protection for native plants and animal species, and protection against storms. Funds will also be used to curb the spread of the non-native myna and bulbul, birds intentionally introduced to control insects but which have since overtaken native bird populations in numbers and harbor disease and parasites. A third component of the project is to conduct stream and wetland restoration and cleanup—restoring native plants and removing non-native weeds. Restorations will restore the wetland and rainforest canopies, reduce soil erosion, restore food and habitat, as well as prevent runoff from damaging coastal resources.

■ **Combat little fire ant infestation in Guam** (\$250,000): The University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences and the National Park Service War in the Pacific National Historical Park are collaborating to counter an infestation of little fire ants in Guam. Congress made available a one-time amount of \$250,000 in the fiscal year 2017 budget toward the eradication of invasive species in the U.S. insular areas, which will be used for the LFA project.

Funding for invasive species management may also be funded through the Technical Assistance Program, which is intended for short-term, non-capital projects and are not meant to supplant local funding of routine operating expenses of an island government. These funds are appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress. (PR)

## Private scholarships offer Micronesians access to opportunity

KOLONIA, Yap—A dozen Micronesian students are headed to prestigious private schools this fall, thanks to Habele K-12 tuition scholarships. These students will attend the independent school of their family's choosing.

Described as "an investment in human capital," these grants are funded by donations from former Peace Corps volunteers, tourists, and other Americans with a personal connection to Micronesia.

Local ownership and sustainability are emphasized throughout the scholarship process by incorporating competition, incentives, and publicity. Habele is an all-volunteer charity based in South Carolina,

and relies on private contributions to fund its scholarship programs. Since 2006, Habele has provided nearly \$75,000 in targeted tuition assistance for Micronesian students.

Many of the scholars' families come from isolated islands and atolls spanning Yap and Chuuk states. They have been awarded tuition assistance covering 50 to 100 percent of their 2017-18 tuition and fees. These students will attend independent K12 schools on the islands of Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei that have among the highest completion rates, test scores, and postsecondary placements in the nation. Most students will be housed throughout the school year

with relatives or host families.

The beautiful—and strategically located—lands of the Federated States of Micronesia struggle with isolation and limited natural resources.

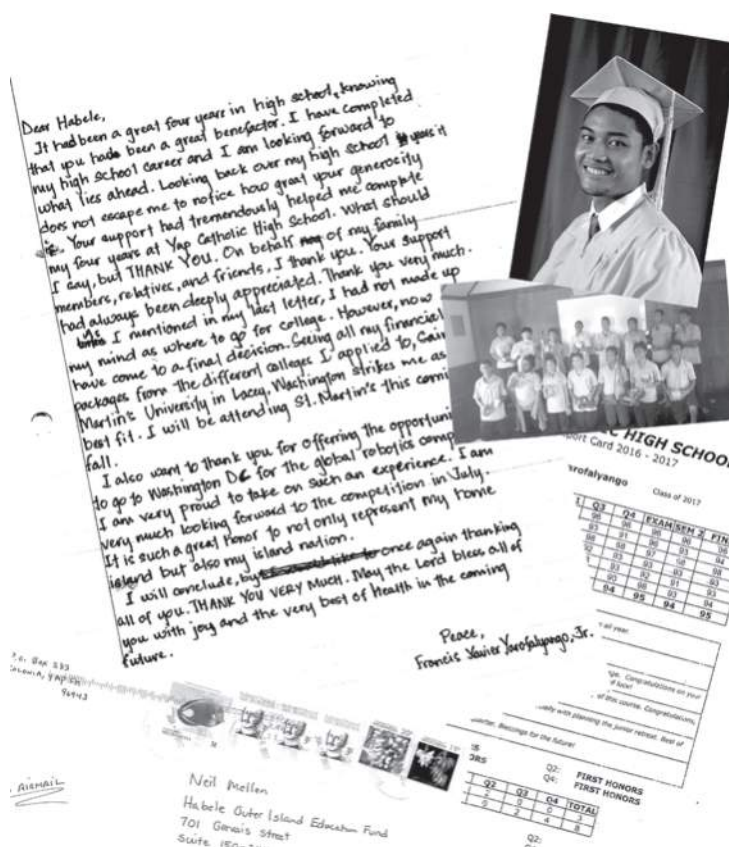
Comprising many small islands, languages, and ethnic groups, FSM was organized in 1986 as an independent republic in free association with the United States. U.S. aid sustains an economy dominated by the public sector. These bilateral payments, managed by the Office of Insular Affairs, are set to expire in 2023.

Habele's funding is always focused on individual students, not districts or schools. Each year, applications outpace scholarship awards by nearly 10-to-one.

Other Habele efforts include sending thousands of boxes of donated books to public school libraries, providing equipment for school sports clubs and specialty equipment for innovative extracurricular programs.

Established by former Peace Corps volunteers, Habele's singular mission is the advancement educational access and accomplishment in Micronesian communities.

"For a decade now, ambitious Habele scholars have been making their families, teachers, and communities proud through incredible academic achievement," noted a Habele director. "Extending ambitious students the opportunity to succeed is the simple part." (PR)



Former Habele Scholar Francis "Cisco" Yarofalyango of Lamotrek Atoll graduated from the Yap Catholic High School this summer. He will be attending Saint Martin's University in Washington state this fall.

HABELE



# Business

## McConnell delays vote on health care after McCain surgery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Saturday he will delay consideration of health care legislation in the Senate, after Sen. John McCain's announced absence following surgery left Republicans short of votes on their marquee legislation.

McConnell's announcement amounted to another setback for GOP efforts, promoted by President Donald Trump, to repeal and replace "Obamacare" after years of promises. McConnell issued his statement not long after McCain's office disclosed that he had undergone surgery to remove a blood clot from above his left eye, and had been advised by his doctors to stay in Arizona next week to recover.

With McConnell's health care legislation already hanging by a thread in the Senate with no votes to spare, McCain's absence meant it would become impossible for the majority leader to round up the votes needed to move forward with the bill next week as planned.

"While John is recovering, the Senate will continue our work on legislative items and nominations, and will defer consideration of the Better Care Act," said McConnell, R-Ky. He did not say when he would aim to return to the health care bill.

Even before Saturday night's developments the fate of the health care legislation looked deeply uncertain in the



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined by Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., left, arrives to tell reporters he is delaying a vote on the Republican health care bill while GOP leadership works toward getting enough votes, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

recent days by Trump administration officials. Democrats are unanimously opposed as are the nation's major medical groups and insurers.

In Phoenix, Mayo Clinic Hospital doctors said McCain underwent a "minimally invasive" procedure to remove the nearly 2-inch (5-centimeter) clot and that the surgery went "very well," a hospital statement said. McCain was reported to be resting comfortably at his home in Arizona.

Pathology reports on the clot were expected in the next several days.

McCain, 80, is a three-time survivor of melanoma. Records of his medical exams released in 2008 when he was the GOP candidate for president showed that he has had precancerous skin lesions removed and had an early stage squamous cell carcinoma, an easily cured skin cancer, removed.

He was re-elected in November to a sixth Senate term.

Senate. In addition to two announced GOP "no" votes from moderate Susan Collins of Maine and conservative Rand Paul of Kentucky, there were at least a half-dozen other Republican senators who were withholding support from or expressing reservations about the bill McConnell released Thursday.

Last month McConnell had to cancel a vote on a previous version of the legislation as

GOP opposition left its defeat assured. In a Senate divided 52-48 between Republicans and Democrats, McConnell can lose no more than two votes and still prevail.

The Senate bill, like legislation passed earlier by the House, repeals mandates requiring individuals to carry insurance and businesses to offer it, and unravels an expansion of the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled enacted un-

der President Barack Obama's law. Analyses of the earlier version of the Senate bill found it would result in more than 20 million additional uninsured Americans over a decade compared to current law.

The newest version attempts to attract conservative support by allowing insurers to offer skimpy plans alongside more robust ones, but also reaches out to moderates by adding billions in help for the opioid

crisis and to defray high costs for consumers.

With the vote set for the coming week now indefinitely postponed, GOP success in its long-promised Obamacare repeal grows all the more uncertain, despite heavy lobbying in

## JPMorgan CEO shifts topic to politics from financial results

NEW YORK (AP)—After JPMorgan Chase posted a record \$7 billion quarterly profit, the last thing a contentious Jamie Dimon wanted to talk about Friday was his company's earnings.

Instead, the CEO of the nation's largest bank vented his irritation with politicians and what he called gridlock that's preventing the economy from doing even better.

Dimon, a member of President Donald Trump's business advisory council, has a reputation for speaking with little to no filter. He's complained in the past that U.S. policymakers spend too much time arguing rather than improving the economy.

The U.S. economy has been expanding at less than 2 percent a year since the Great Recession, which is below the typical growth after an economic downturn. Dimon said growth would be higher if Washington gridlock would ease.

"It's almost an embarrassment being an American citizen traveling around the world ... listening to the stupid (expletive) we have to deal with in this country," he said in a call. "At one point we all have to get our act together or we won't do what we're supposed to do for the average Americans."

As head of the nation's biggest bank, Dimon has a big stake in how Washington operates and how the U.S. economy performs. And while Trump's business advisory council cannot make policy decisions, it does have input on what the White House's priorities should be for big companies like JPMorgan.

Republicans who control of both houses of Congress and the White House have proposed cutting corporate income taxes, which would directly benefit JPMorgan's bottom line, and infrastructure spending would add to U.S. gross domestic product. There

is also talk about trimming back some of the strict regulations put in place following the financial crisis that bank CEOs like Dimon have argued are restricting the ability of banks to lend money.

Whether those regulations are really restricting lending is a topic of debate. Nearly all banks are making more loans, including JPMorgan Chase, and bank profits are up.

"What's the evidence that regulations are seriously impeding the banking industry or any other industry?" said Dean Baker, an economist with the left-leaning Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Baker said one reason for the gridlock is the inability of Republicans to coalesce around a unified agenda. For example, some want tax cuts to stimulate growth, but other Republicans are worried about deficits that could rise if taxes were cut too sharply.

Dimon, when asked by a

business journalist about the firm's bond trading results following the Federal Reserve's interest rate increase last month, called for reporters to focus less on the quarter-to-quarter changes in its business and more on bigger issues like infrastructure, the opioid epidemic, taxation and jobs.

"(Reporters) should be writing a lot more about that the stuff that is holding back and hurting average Americans. Who really cares about fixed-income trading in the last two weeks of June, I mean seriously?" he said.

While the bank overall has benefited from the Fed's decision and has been making more loans across all its businesses, this quarter's quiet stock and bond markets depressed the bank's trading revenue by 17 percent. Fixed-income trading revenue was down 19 percent from last year, while stock trading was mostly flat.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Bone fragment scare forces Sabrett hot dog recall

NEW YORK (AP)—The maker of Sabrett hot dogs is recalling more than 7 million pounds of hot dogs because they may contain bone fragments. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced the recall of products made by New York City-based Marathon Enterprises Inc. on Saturday. The recall affects beef and pork hot dogs and sausages produced on various dates between March 17 and July 4. The food-safety agency says the products subject to recall are stamped "EST. 8854" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The agency says the recalled products have been blamed for one minor oral injury. Consumers who purchased the hot dogs are urged to throw them away or return them to the store where they bought them.

#### France wades into Qatar row, urges end to punitive measures

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—

France's foreign minister on Saturday called on Qatar's neighbors to immediately lift measures impacting thousands of people in the Gulf, becoming the latest foreign diplomat to visit the region and attempt to help find a resolution to a crisis that has dragged on for more than a month. In early June, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar and moved to isolate the small, but wealthy Gulf nation, canceling air routes between their capitals and Qatar's and closing their airspace to Qatari flights. Saudi Arabia also sealed Qatar's only land border, impacting a key source of food imports in the mostly desert nation. The four countries also expelled all Qatari nationals, impacting mixed-nationality families in the Gulf, students and people seeking medical treatment abroad, among others. Prior to the dispute, Qataris could travel visa-free between the Gulf countries. France Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said such punitive measures should end.



# Nation

## Drought in High Plains the worst some farmers have ever seen

**BEULAH, N.D.** (AP)—Drought in North Dakota is laying waste to fields of normally bountiful food and hay crops and searing pastures that typically would be home to multitudes of grazing cattle.

Some longtime farmers and ranchers say it's the worst conditions they've seen in decades—possibly their lifetimes—and simple survival has become their goal as a dry summer drags on without a raincloud in sight.

"We've never been in this sort of boat, honestly," said Dawn Martin, who raises beef cattle with her parents and husband in the southwestern part of the state, an area the U.S. Drought Monitor says is in "extreme" drought.

"We're just trying to make it through and work it out," she said. "There are a lot of people in the same boat. I don't know what the answer is."

The drought's impact likely will be felt not just by farmers but also consumers, state Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. Agriculture in North Dakota is an \$11 billion a year industry, and the state leads the nation in the production of nearly a dozen crops.

"It's going to affect bread at the grocery store counter," Goehring said, though he didn't put a figure on how much costs might go up for shoppers. "Dry beans—navies, pintos—are going to be affected to a degree. Canola, that production is going to be cut, and that's going to have an effect on vegetable oil."

The latest Drought Monitor map shows nearly all of western North Dakota in severe or extreme drought, conditions that extend into northern South Dakota and northeastern Mon-

tana. Most of the rest of North Dakota is in moderate drought or abnormally dry.

John Weinand has had less than 2.5 inches of rain on his farm near Beulah, which is northwest of Bismarck, since the beginning of May. He's used to getting more than 3 inches in June alone.

Weinand figures his wheat crop will be half what it usually is. As for his field peas, he expects to harvest fewer than 100 pounds per acre, compared with a typical 3,000 pounds per acre. He won't even try to sell his barley; he's already rolled it up into hay to feed his cows.

"If we get some rain we'll have some corn and soybeans, but at this point it doesn't look very promising," he said.

The Martins have sold off about one-third of their cattle because the grass in their pastures is brown and brittle and they've already started dipping into winter hay reserves. They'll likely send their remaining animals to a feedlot for the winter, but they might need to find second jobs to cover the expense.

"What we're trying to do is hold onto our main cow herd, get through the year, and hopefully next year is better," Martin said.

The situation is much the same across ranching country, with the best hay production about a fourth of normal. In pastures where grass might typically be 2 feet tall, "now we're talking grass that if you laid a pop can on its side, it would be taller," Goehring said.

More than one-third of North Dakota's staple spring wheat crop and nearly three-fourths of the state's pasture and rangelands are rated in



AP  
In this July 13, 2017, photo, farmer John Weinand surveys a wheat field near Beulah, N.D., that should be twice as tall as it is.

Livestock Water Supply cost-share program and relaxing commercial driving restrictions to help with the transport of livestock, water and hay.

Hay is in great demand—a North Dakota State University website that helps match hay buyers with sellers lists nearly 60 ranchers seeking hay. The demand has pushed prices to as much as double the normal cost.

"Everything good is pretty far away," Martin said. "The hay is going to be expensive, and the trucking is going to be expensive to get it here. That's where we're at—weighing the cost."

If the drought persists into next year, it could start pushing producers out of business, officials and farmers say. But one year of extreme conditions, though a hardship, will be manageable for most.

"We'll make it through," Martin said. "We're a resilient bunch."

poor or very poor condition, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA estimates spring wheat production will be down 27 percent from last year; oats, barley, durum wheat and winter wheat also will be down dramatically. The production reports released Wednesday for South Dakota and Montana are much the same.

USDA has designated numerous counties in the three states as natural disasters, paving the way for emergency loans for producers. The Agriculture Department has authorized other aid, including forage disaster payments and emergency haying and grazing of land enrolled in conservation and wetland programs.

That helps, but doesn't cover

everything, Goehring said. Neither does crop insurance, which pays only a portion of what a farmer would get by selling a typical crop, said Goehring, who in addition to heading the state Agriculture Department is a farmer who has worked in the insurance industry.

The state has taken several steps, including adding more money to its Drought Disaster

## From small crimes, cousins allegedly move to killing 4 men

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Two cousins charged in a gruesome crime spree that ended with police unearthing the bodies of four young men buried on a family farm started off committing small crimes.

But authorities don't know why the 20-year-old suspects escalated from offenses like break-ins and jewelry heists to allegedly killing their victims and burying them in two pits so deep beneath the

ground that a backhoe and dozens of people were needed to sift through the dirt.

Police found the missing men after a grueling, five-day search in sweltering heat and pelting rain.

For Cosmo DiNardo, whose lawyer said he confessed to all four killings in exchange for being spared the death penalty, brushes with the law began in his early teenage years.

He was about 14 when the

Bensalem Police Department first had contact with him. He had more than 30 run-ins with its officers over the next six years, department director Frederick Harran said, although court filings reflect only the minor infractions and traffic stops that came after age 18.

DiNardo enrolled at Arcadia University in Glenside in the fall of 2015 with hopes of studying biology and had an eye on international travel, according to a blog post announcing the incoming class.

"I'm going to go overseas, hopefully to Italy and the rest of Europe," he is quoted as saying.

However, his time at the school was short. After making comments that unnerved several people on campus, public safety officials contacted the local police department. The university sent a letter to DiNardo's parents saying said their son could face trespassing charges if he returned to the school, a person aware of the contents of the letter said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss it.

A year and a day before he admitted to killing the

missing men, lighting three of them on fire and using a backhoe to load the charred bodies into an oil tank that he buried more than 12-feet (3.7-meters)-deep on his parent's farm, a family member had DiNardo involuntarily committed to a mental institution, Harran said.

Details of his institutionalization remain unclear, but he was barred by law from owning a firearm afterward. Nonetheless, when Bensalem police responded to a report of gunfire in February, an officer found DiNardo in his truck with a 20-gauge shotgun and extra ammunition. He acknowledged his history of mental illness, Harran said.

"A year later, here we are," Harran said Friday. "The system is broken."

Despite the mental health commitment and frequent interactions with police, DiNardo still managed to sell guns and marijuana in the area, according to a source familiar with DiNardo's confession who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

A police affidavit confirmed the source's story—DiNardo lured each of the victims to his family's 90-acre (36-hectare) Solebury Township farm under the guise of marijuana deals.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Bride-to-be calls off wedding, throws party for homeless

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—An Indiana woman who called off her \$30,000 wedding is throwing a party for the homeless at the swanky event center she had booked for the reception. Sarah Cummins told the Indianapolis Star she called off the wedding scheduled for Saturday a week ago, but declined to give a reason. She was left with a nonrefundable contract for the Ritz Charles in Carmel and a plated dinner for 170 guests. Cummins says she decided that rather than throw away the food she would bring some purpose to the event and contacted area homeless shelters. Two buses are trans-

porting shelter residents and families to the event to dine on bourbon-glazed meatballs, goat cheese and roasted garlic bruschetta, chicken breast with artichokes and Chardonnay cream sauce and wedding cake.

#### Ex-inmate misses job interview to help driver in crash

**WESTPORT, Conn.** (AP)—A former inmate on his way to a job interview is being lauded for helping the driver of a car that flipped over on a Connecticut highway. Aaron Tucker was traveling by bus through Westport Wednesday when he saw the crash and jumped off to help the driver. Tucker, who lives in

a Bridgeport halfway house, helped rescue the driver from the smoking car and wrapped his dress shirt around the man's head to stop a wound from bleeding. The bus left the scene and Tucker missed his interview. But he says he's since gotten other job offers. He tells WABC-TV it was "the right thing" to do. A GoFundMe was set up to raise money for Tucker, who served nearly two years in prison on a weapons charge, and his 21-month-old son.

#### 3 dead in fire at Virginia senior center

**CHEASPEAKE, Va.** (AP)—Fire officials say three people have died after a fire at a senior living complex in Ches-

apeake, Virginia. The fire happened early Saturday morning at Chesapeake Crossing Senior Community Apartments. The Chesapeake Fire Department says six people—including two firefighters—were taken to the hospital with various injuries. Three of five buildings in the complex caught fire. Firefighters arrived at 4:41 a.m. to find flames through the roofs of three buildings. Crews from Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Suffolk and Mayock, North Carolina, responded to the fire. Much of the roofing and upper walls of the buildings collapsed. Smoke could still be seen over the complex Saturday afternoon. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.



# Asia

## Family scatters Chinese Nobel laureate's ashes into the sea

**SHENYANG, China (AP)**—Family members of Liu Xiaobo scattered the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's ashes into the sea on Saturday in funeral proceedings closely orchestrated by the Chinese government following his death from cancer while in custody.

Liu's supporters said the move was intended by the authoritarian government to permanently erase any traces of China's best-known political prisoner, who died Thursday at the age of 61.

The sea burial took place Saturday at noon, just hours after his cremation, a spokesman for the northeastern city of Shenyang, where Liu died, told reporters.

Liu's elder brother, also addressing reporters at the briefing, thanked the ruling Communist Party and the government for its handling of his brother's funeral. The brother, Liu Xiaoguang, is regarded by Liu's friends as having long been unsupportive of Liu's political advocacy.

Liu died from multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for incitement to subvert state power. In the run-up to his death, Beijing faced mounting international criticism for not letting him and his wife travel for treatment abroad as he had wished.

The government held two briefings Saturday and provided photos of the funeral and the sea burial, the latest moves in a propaganda campaign seemingly aimed at countering criticism that Beijing has failed to handle Liu's deterioration and dying wishes in



Protesters carry a picture of late Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo as they march to mourn Liu at a downtown street in Hong Kong, Saturday, July 15, 2017.

a humanitarian way. A video about Liu's hospital treatment released on the website of Shenyang's judicial bureau Friday appeared aimed at the same objective.

Activists and friends of the family said the sea burial appeared to be Beijing's way of removing every last physical trace of Liu. It also removes the need for a land-based grave at which his supporters would have been able to pay their respects.

"The government's thinking is that in this way, they can

destroy the body and remove all traces of him," dissident and family friend Hu Jia said by phone.

"After all, he's a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and he died after being suppressed by the authorities," Hu said. "The authorities are very worried that a grave would be the focal point of the public's actions to memorialize him, which could easily turn into protests."

Activist filmmaker and friend Zeng Jinyan said the sea burial would not deter supporters from commemo-

rating Liu's life.

"Now, Liu Xiaobo is everywhere," Zeng said. "Two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered by the sea and I can foresee that in the future, activists and ordinary people will go to the sea and memorialize Liu Xiaobo."

In Hong Kong, thousands of Liu's supporters and activists attended a candlelight vigil Saturday to mourn his death.

Supporters paid their respects by observing a minute of silence and marching through the streets of Hong

Kong holding lit candles.

Liu's wife and other family members have been closely guarded by authorities and remain largely out of contact with the outside world even

after his death. Governments around the world have urged China to free his wife, Liu Xia, from the strict house arrest she has lived under for years even though she has not been convicted of any crime.

The government handout photos showed Liu Xia, who wore dark sunglasses, being comforted by her brother in a funeral parlor as they stood in a row with Liu's older and younger siblings and their wives. Liu's body lay in an open casket in the center of the room, surrounded by an arrangement of potted white flowers.

A black banner strung on the wall read "Mr. Liu Xiaobo's funeral" in white Chinese characters. It was positioned above a framed picture of Liu. A press release issued by the government said that the ceremony was held at 6:30 a.m. to the music of Mozart's Requiem, and that the body was cremated shortly afterward.

The government also said some of Liu's friends attended the ceremony, a claim that was disputed by people who have long been close to Liu. In the handout images, none among a group of people standing by the casket were identifiable as any of Liu's friends, Zeng said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### New kidnappings, jailbreak hit restive Philippine island

**JOLO, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine officials say suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen have abducted four workers in a school in a southern province where President Rodrigo Duterte visited troops waging an offensive against the militants. Officials say about 20 militants barged into a grade school compound in Sulu province's Patikul town shortly after midnight Saturday and seized six painters and carpenters, one of whom managed to escape and alerted the police. Army troops later rescued another worker. Duterte pinned medals on wounded troops during a visit to Sulu Saturday. Meanwhile, police say 14 inmates, including suspected Abu Sayyaf fighters, escaped early Sunday from a jail in a building that also houses the police headquarters in Sulu's main town of Jolo. Three of those who escaped were gunned down and another was captured.

#### Malaysia says Seychelles debris not from missing Flight 370

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—A Malaysian official said Friday that two pieces of debris found in Seychelles did not come from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said in a statement that investigators have analyzed photographs of the debris and confirmed it did not come from a Boeing 777 or from a Rolls Royce engine, the type used on the flight. Some pieces of wreckage from the plane have washed ashore on coastlines around the Indian Ocean since the Boeing 777 jet disappeared on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board. Malaysia, Australia and China suspended a nearly three-year search in the southern Indian Ocean on Jan. 17 after it failed to find any trace of the missing plane, one of aviation's greatest unsolved mysteries. Malaysian officials have said they will step up efforts to search for plane debris along the African coast. So far, 27 pieces of suspected debris have been found, of which three have been confirmed to be from Flight 370 and five others are "almost certain" to be from the plane.

## Philippines' ex-leader faces charges for role in clash

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The anti-graft prosecutor in the Philippines on Friday ordered the filing of criminal charges against former President Benigno Aquino III for his alleged liability in a 2015 clash with Muslim rebels that killed 44 police.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales said Aquino should be charged with usurpation of authority and corruption for allowing the suspended national police chief to play an active role in the operation in southern Mamasapano town, which resulted in the biggest single-day combat loss for Filipino forces in years.

Then national police chief Alan Purisima was under preventive suspension linked to corruption and an acting head of the police force had been named.



In this June 1, 2016 file photo, former Philippine President Benigno Aquino III reviews the troops during the commissioning ceremony for the new Philippine Navy Strategic Sealift Vessel BRP Tarlac and three other vessels at the South Harbor in Manila.

Police commandos killed Zulkifli bin Hir, a top Malaysian suspect long wanted by the United States during the Jan. 25, 2015 assault. But the brutal police deaths sparked public outrage. They also

prompted lawmakers to delay passage of a key bill to establish a large autonomous region for minority Muslims.

Purisima and another officer are co-conspirators in the case. Morales said that text

messages between Aquino and Purisima showed that the suspended police chief played a major role in the botched operation and blamed it on Aquino's "complicity and influence."

In his response, Aquino said he did not directly participate in the planning and execution of the operation. He said he was only briefed on the broad strokes of the plan and there was no need for him to approve it.

His spokeswoman Abigail Valte said Aquino was consulting his lawyers.

The former president, who served from 2010 until 2016, has been credited with restoring a semblance of political and economic stability in the Philippines and signing a peace deal to try to end a decades-long Muslim separatist rebellion.



# World

## Egypt knife attacker first sat, spoke with 2 German victims

**HURGHADA, Egypt** (AP)—The Egyptian university graduate who stabbed two German women to death at a popular Red Sea resort first sat and spoke to them in fluent German before producing a large kitchen knife and attacking them, security officials said Saturday.

Leaving them for dead, 29-year-old Abdel-Rahman Shaaban fled the scene, chased by hotel workers and security guards. He rushed into the hotel next door where he attacked and wounded four female tourists who, according to local media reports, included two Armenians, one from Ukraine and another from the Czech Republic.

“Stay back, I am not after Egyptians,” Shaaban shouted in Arabic at his pursuers, according to the officials. They eventually caught up with him, disarmed and pinned him down and later handed him over to the police. Shaaban stabbed the women in the face, neck and feet, said the officials.

No group claimed responsibility for the Friday attack, but it appeared to have been inspired by recent calls made by the local affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group on its followers to attack Egypt’s minority Christians and foreign tourists.

The officials said Abdel-



AP  
In this file picture taken Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, tourists walk on the Giftun Island beach as the sun sets over the Red Sea in Hurghada, Egypt.

Rahman hails from the Nile Delta province of Kafr el-Sheikh where he attended the business school of the local branch of Al-Azhar University - the world’s foremost seat of learning of Sunni Islam and the target of mounting criticism in recent months over its alleged radical teachings and doctrinal rigidity.

Investigators were still trying to determine how Shaaban

came to be in Hurghada, one of Egypt’s main Red Sea resorts, popular for its year-round sunny weather and diving.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

A statement by the national security prosecution’s office, which is questioning Shaaban in Cairo, said Saturday that

his motives and ideological convictions remained unclear. “The characterization of the action committed by the culprit, whether it is an individual act, criminal or terrorist, is not clear to the prosecution at this time,” said the statement.

Police are meanwhile interviewing 15 hotel workers to piece together what happened.

Germany on Saturday gave the first official confirmation that the two tourists killed by Shaaban were German nationals, but gave no other information. Local German media reports, however, said the two

were residing in Hurghada, not tourists.

In a statement, the German Foreign Ministry said: “According to everything that we know, this act was aimed at foreign tourists—a particularly perfidious and criminal act that leaves us sad, dismayed and angry.”

The attack on the tourists took place just hours after five policemen were killed in a shooting near some of Egypt’s most famous pyramids in the greater Cairo area. No group claimed responsibility for that attack, which bore the

hallmarks of a militant group known as Hasm that has been behind similar attacks in recent months.

Authorities say Hasm is a splinter faction of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group that was outlawed and declared a terrorist organization several months after the military in July 2013 ousted Mohammed Morsi, a senior leader of the Brotherhood who was elected president in 2012.

Friday’s attacks are likely to further impact Egypt’s tourism industry—a backbone of the country’s economy that employs millions of people but which has been decimated by the political turmoil and lacking security roiling the country since the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

On Saturday, tight security was in place at Hurghada, with additional checkpoints at the city’s entry and exit points and reinforced security at tourist sites, including where the attack took place.

Egypt has been rocked by deadly suicide bombings, drive-by shootings and other attacks since Morsi’s ouster four years ago. The violence has been concentrated in the northern Sinai Peninsula, but attacks have spread to the mainland, including the capital.

## Turks commemorate 1 year since failed coup with huge march

**ISTANBUL** (AP)—President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to “rip the heads off” of terror groups and coup-plotters who tried to end his more than decade-long rule on Saturday, as Turkey marked the anniversary of the country’s crushed military coup with a series of rallies and other commemorative events.

Accompanied by his family and the families of the victims of the coup, Erdogan joined a massive, flag-waving crowd near the iconic July 15 Martyrs’ Bridge in Istanbul to remember 250 people who died on July 15, 2016 resisting the coup.

He inaugurated a hollow, globe-shaped monument featuring the names of the victims near the foot of the bridge, before flying to Ankara to attend a special session in parliament at the exact moment it was bombed a year ago. He also opened a second memorial opposite the grounds of his palace in Ankara.

“Exactly a year ago today, around this hour, a treacherous attempt took place,” Erdogan told tens of thousands of peo-

ple in Istanbul who converged at the bridge following a “national unity march.”

“The July 15 coup attempt is not the first attack against our country, and it won’t be the last,” he said, referring to a series of terror attacks that also hit the country. “For that reason, we’ll first rip the heads off of these traitors.”

The bridge was the scene of clashes between civilians and soldiers in tanks. At least 30 people died there and more than 2,000 were injured across Turkey in the struggle. Thirty-five coup plotters were also killed.

Photographs of the 250 “martyrs” were displayed on monitors and their names announced. Erdogan paid tribute to the victims saying they fought with their “bare hands” and “their faith” against the heavily armed coup-plotters.

Erdogan also told the crowd that he wants hundreds of people who are on trial for plotting last year’s failed coup to appear in court wearing the same type of outfit - similar to those that were worn by detainees at Guanta-

namo Bay. He also reiterated that he would approve a bill reinstating the death penalty if parliament proposed it.

Turkish soldiers attempted to overthrow the government and the president using tanks, warplanes and helicopters on July 15, 2016. The coup plotters declared their seizure of power on the state broadcaster, bombed the country’s parliament and other key locations, and raided an Aegean resort where Erdogan had been on vacation. But Erdogan had already left and the coup attempt was put down by civilians and security forces.

Turkey blames U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen for orchestrating the coup and infiltrating state institutions. Gulen denies the allegations.

In the aftermath of the coup attempt, Turkey declared a state of emergency that has been in place ever since, which has allowed the government to rule by decree and to dismiss tens of thousands of people from their jobs. More than 50,000 people have also been arrested for alleged links to Gulen and other groups.

## 6 Congo rangers safe; US journalist, 3 others still missing

**KINSHASA, Congo** (AP)—Six Congolese rangers were found Saturday in a large forest reserve in Congo’s northeast a day after a security station was attacked by militia, but an American journalist and at least three security guards remain missing, a local official said Saturday.

At least 10 people had gone missing after an attack Friday by the Mai Mai militia outside the town of Mambasa in Congo’s Okapi Wildlife Reserve, said Mambasa territory administrator Alfred Bongwalanga Efoloko. He confirmed that the six had been found but had no information on their conditions. The park rangers are part of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation.

No details about the missing journalist were immediately available and authorities had no proof the attack was an abduction, he said.

Army reinforcements have been searching since Friday night for those still missing, he said.

“I am optimistic they will all be found,” Efoloko told The Associated Press by telephone. “The forest is very big. Maybe they fled in another direction. According to testimony of their colleagues, the attack came as the team wanted to go have a meal” and there was a lot of crossfire.

In Washington, the State Department said it was “aware of reports that a U.S. citizen was kidnapped” in Congo.

“The U.S. Department of State has no higher priority than the protection of U.S. citizens overseas,” a State Department official said on background. “Due to privacy considerations, we have no further comment.”

Two British journalists and five other park rangers, part

of the same team, escaped after the attack, making their way to another Okapi reserve base, Efoloko said.

The Center for Studies of Peace and Defense of Human Rights said earlier Saturday that a journalist had disappeared with 11 park security guards. It also identified Friday’s attackers as the Mai Mai SIMBA, saying they attacked in Bapela, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Mambasa. The group’s executive director, Omar Kavota, expressed concern for the missing.

A Congolese civilian was also kidnapped Friday near Mambasa by armed men, he said in a statement.

Kidnappings for ransom are common in eastern Congo.

A separate attack Saturday by the Mai Mai in the country’s North Kivu province killed two soldiers.



## Focus

# DETROIT AT CROSSROADS

## 50 years after riots devastated city

By COREY WILLIAMS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**D**ETROIT (AP)—Deborah Chenault Green is 62, a writer. But 50 years ago she was a pre-teen, sleeping on the porch to escape the oppressive heat, awakening to see a sky that glowed unnaturally.

Azerine Jones is a retired baker. But in 1967 she was the 12-year-old daughter of a barber who watched his business go up in smoke.

Gerard Townsend is 66 now, living in a seniors building near the Detroit waterfront. But a half century ago, he was just a kid on a city bus.

The bus stopped near 12th and Clairmount streets. Townsend stepped off—and into the very start of the Detroit riot.

“I saw all these guys with masks and shields,” he said—city police officers, most of them white, far outnumbered by a seething black crowd.

In the days that followed, he would witness—and take part in—an epic eruption of violence that still reverberates in his life and the life of this city.

Five days of violence would leave 33 blacks and 10 whites dead, and more than 1,400 buildings burned. More than 7,000 people were arrested.

A decline that had already begun would accelerate; Detroit was the nation’s fourth biggest city in 1960, but would rank 21st by 2016. The middle class fled, and a proud city fell into poverty, crime and hopelessness.

There are signs of rebirth in Detroit. But the men and women who lived through the riots are getting older, and most doubt they will live to see Detroit reclaim its former glory, when its very name was synonymous with American know-how and industry.

“Detroit still hasn’t come back to where it was,” Townsend said sourly, sorting through 50 years of memories.

Detroit wasn’t the first of the riots in the summer of 1967, and it was far from the last. Buffalo, New York, and Newark, New Jersey, preceded it; in the course of the summer, more than 150 cases of civil unrest erupted across the United States.

Detroit’s started after a July 23 police raid on an illegal after-hours’ club - a “blind pig” - at 12th and Clairmount.

The raid, though, was just the spark. Many in the community blamed frustrations blacks felt toward the mostly white police, and city policies that pushed families into aging and over-crowded



In this July 25, 1967 file photo, firefighters try to control blazing buildings after riots in Detroit. Hundreds of fires were reported in the city. Five days of violence would leave 33 blacks and 10 whites dead, and more than 1,400 buildings burned. More than 7,000 people were arrested.

neighborhoods.

“We had a fear and kind of a hatred toward the police department,” Green said. “They would harass people, especially young black men. Stop them for no reason. A lot of men and women were beaten. A lot of that led up to the city exploding.”

When Gerard Townsend got off the bus that night, he stumbled into the immediate aftermath of the blind pig raid. By the next day, the riot was in full bloom: “I got up the next morning and the whole west side was on fire. Everything was burning. People were running around with clothes in their hands, TVs and all kinds of stuff.”

Townsend was among them. He made off with a television from a furniture store.

“We stole liquor and stuff,” he said. “I watched it. I lived it. I was part of it.”

There is general agreement that the rioters did not focus their fury on whites. Theresa Welsh and her husband, David, rented an apartment early that summer about eight blocks from where the riot started. “Nobody bothered us. We were a couple of white people wandering around,” said Welsh, 71.

Deborah Chenault Green recalls she was at a cousin’s home. They slept on a mat-

tress on the porch because it was such a hot night.

“The noise, I think, is what woke us up,” she said. “You could hear cars and people and police sirens. I looked in the sky and I saw red. There was looting. It was mayhem everywhere. Everybody was just going crazy.”

National Guard tanks and other armored vehicles rumbled through the streets. There were reports of snipers firing on law enforcement, the National Guard and even firefighters from rooftops and other secreted spots. Authorities fired back.

The city lost more than 2,000 shops to fires or looting, many of them owned by blacks. Among them was the barbershop on Warren Avenue owned by Azerine Jones’ father.

“They were burning some of everything,” she said. “It wasn’t a matter of them saying this was white-owned or black-owned. Stuff just got caught on fire.”

When the smoke cleared and the military rolled out, Detroit stood bruised and battered.

“A lot of the fires may have started in white-owned business and spread,” Green said. “A lot of black businesses were destroyed. A lot of peo-

ple had jobs in those shops. The majority of them didn’t reopen. After the riot, it looked like a war zone and the burnt smell still lingered.”

Jones said her father never rebuilt his barbershop. He took on other jobs after the riot.

“Owning your own business as a black in the 1950s and ‘60s was an accomplishment in itself,” she said.

“Before the riot it was a really good comfortable neighborhood,” added Jones, who now lives west of Detroit in Farmington Hills. “We had the things that we needed there: A theater, a butcher shop, dairy shop, shoe store. Since my mother didn’t drive it was nice having everything in walking distance. That’s what really got us when they burned everything down. She had to take a bus with the groceries. It just really killed everything.”

In the end, it was Detroiters hurting themselves, she said.

“The silly people who did this didn’t really realize they were burning down their neighborhoods,” Jones said. “The (white) business owners were able to pick up and go somewhere else. The people who lived there lost a lot. We lost a lot.”

The departure of white residents and businesses to the suburbs that had started

years earlier accelerated. Between 1970 and 1980 more than 400,000 more people would leave.

“Some white people were rooted in Detroit,” Townsend said. But after the riot, “they moved out. They didn’t want to be here anymore.”

After the riot, David Welsh took a job as a photographer in a town just north of Detroit. He and his wife moved from the riot zone.

“It didn’t make sense for us to be down there anymore, all things considered,” said David Welsh, 74. “We didn’t feel comfortable there anymore.”

The couple would move to other parts of the city and eventually settled north of the city limits.

So did many middle-class blacks. Altogether, Detroit’s population has fallen by about 1.1 million people since the 1950s.

Even as the Motor City was diminished, Murder City grew. More than 700 homicides were committed in 1974.

Within a decade of the riot, the car plants that provided jobs and helped keep the city running were hiring fewer people. Three years after the riot, Detroit’s unemployment rate was just over 7 percent. It reached 25 percent by 1990.

Green was hired by Chrysler in 1978 to work on one of the

automaker’s assembly lines.

“That job didn’t last long,” she said. “I got laid off.”

Today, nearly four in 10 Detroit residents live in poverty compared to about 15 percent nationally. The city’s \$26,000 median income is less than half of the national figure.

Now, two years out of insolvency and free of billions of dollars of debt, Detroit is working to fix up its battered neighborhoods and its image.

Though more than twice the national number, unemployment is down to 11 percent. Downtown is thriving and some nearby neighborhoods are filling up. The city, 80 percent black, even elected Mike Duggan, Detroit’s first white mayor since the 1970s.

The population is leveling out at around 670,000 people and families are taking advantage of special home buying programs through the city’s land bank.

Between 2010 and 2014, the city’s white population grew from just under 76,000 residents to more than 88,000.

“We’re in the first period of growth in 50 or 60 years - people are moving back,” Duggan recently told business, philanthropic and elected leaders at a statewide policy conference. “Our principle is this: It’s one city for all of us.”

To get there, Detroit has had to correct mistakes of the past that led to the 1967 riot and eventually bankruptcy.

Duggan said many of those decisions were “rooted in racial discrimination” and included forcing poor black residents into ever smaller areas where housing stock already was aging or substandard. Loans backed by the federal government allowed whites to buy homes in the suburbs in the years leading up to 1967.

“Few loans were given to blacks to buy or improve houses in Detroit,” Duggan said. “By 1970, half of the population of Detroit was African American - and it still was segregated. This is our history and it’s something we have to overcome.”

But some who lived through the riots say any progress will not wipe away their distress in those five days of violence, and in the 50 years that followed.

“It’s part of everyone’s story,” Green said. “I look at the people who suffered through the riot as going through a war-like environment. What happens when you go through a war? A lot of people come out with post-traumatic stress disorder. We were traumatized. We never got the help we needed.”



# Health & Fitness

# Coffee drinkers live longer and have lower risk of disease, studies find

**By BRADLEY J. FIKES**  
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

Coffee drinkers live longer, according to two large-scale studies released Monday that add to extensive research indicating coffee consumption is associated with better health.

The studies examined the health histories of hundreds of thousands of people who were tracked over many years. They found that coffee-drinking reduced the risk of various diseases among people from several ethnicities, and this effect was seen in drinkers of regular or decaffeinated coffee. And the more coffee consumed, the greater the benefit.

These are observational studies, not controlled clinical trials. So while they demonstrate an association, they don't prove cause and effect. But at the least, researchers said the latest evidence reinforces a large body of previous reports indicating there's no harm from coffee — and that it might very well benefit people's health.

Both of the new studies were



FRANCINE ORR/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Coffee at the Alma restaurant at The Standard, in West Hollywood, CA.

published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. They asked participants about whether they drank coffee, and if so, how much. Participants were also asked about habits that influence health, such as smoking, exercise and heart disease.

One study was led by Veronica W. Setiawan of the University of Southern California. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, it examined coffee-drinking habits among more

than 180,000 whites, African-Americans, Latinos, Japanese-Americans and native Hawaiians. They were followed for an average of 16 years.

The other was performed by European scientists from Imperial College London and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, led by Marc J. Gunter of the IARC. It examined coffee-drinking among more than 520,000 adults from 10 European countries.

The study led by Setiawan found those drinking one cup of coffee daily had a 12 percent lower risk of death from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, respiratory and kidney disease. For those drinking 3 cups a day, the risk reduction rose to 18 percent.

In previous studies, the great majority of those examined were white, meaning that environmental and lifestyle differences among ethnicities could have confounded the results. But her study found these benefits to occur regardless of the ethnicity studied.

The study led by Gunter likewise found a lower death risk from various ailments, including digestive, circulatory and liver disease. The relationship was the same regardless of country, the study found. It was funded by the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers and International Agency for Research on Cancer.

The studies make a significant contribution to knowledge about coffee and health, said Peter Adams, professor of the Tumor Initiation and Maintenance Program at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute.

"It's good to know that not everything that gives you a buzz is bad for you," Adams said by email.

"These two publications extend the findings of previous studies indicating the apparent benefits of coffee drinking," he added. "While the data across these and previous investigations seems consistent and compel-

ling, to be really convincing it is important to figure out how it works.

"As the authors note, coffee is a complex concoction, and caffeine itself does not seem to be responsible. Coffee does contain many other candidate molecules, for example anti-oxidants."

“However, recent studies have challenged the view that anti-oxidants are always beneficial. Oxidants may not cause aging as previously thought, and anti-oxidants can even help cancer cells to survive!”

"So until we figure out how it works, you can keep drinking coffee and stay off the expensive anti-oxidants from the pharmacy," he said.

Coffee is most renowned for its stimulant effect, provided by caffeine. However, individuals respond differently based on their genetics. Some people are metabolically fast at breaking down caffeine, others metabolize it more slowly.

This has health consequences. One of the few studies that showed some harm in coffee found that slow metabolizers who drank four or more cups of regular coffee a day experience a 36 percent greater risk of non-fatal heart attacks.

However, fast metabolizers who drank that much coffee had a lower risk of heart attacks. The presumptive explanation is that the noncaffeine components of coffee exert beneficial effects, and fast metabolizers clear caffeine quickly enough to avoid harm from an excessive dose.

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# Life & Style

## 70-year-old YouTube hit redefining beauty in South Korea

**YONGIN, South Korea** (AP)—One of South Korea's hottest YouTube stars is a 70-year-old grandmother whose cool, undaunted style and hilarity are a breath of fresh air in a social media universe that exalts youth and perfect looks.

Park Makrye's videos are all about showing off her wrinkles and her elderly life in the raw. Young South Koreans find her so funny and adorable that big companies like Samsung Electronics and Lotte are banking on her popularity.

Despite her new life as a celebrity, she still gets up before dawn to run her diner.

Serving kimchi while clad in a dotted pink top and short skirt with a kitchen hygiene hat on her head, Park isn't exactly the most stylish beauty icon.

Yet, South Koreans love watching her give make-up tutorials, reunite with an old friend or try pasta for the first time in her life in her "Grandma's Diary" YouTube videos



In this July 11, 2017 photo, South Korea's YouTube star, Park Makrye, 70, poses for a photo in front of a stage for her YouTube channel during an interview at her home in Yongin, South Korea.

"She's real. She's not fake," said Lee Injae, a 31-year-old living in Seoul. "It's refreshing to see the world through the eyes of a grandmother."

Before YouTube, Park says, her life was "dead like rotten

bean sprouts."

"We used to think, 'Since I'm over 70, my life is over,'" Park said in an interview with The Associated Press, sitting in the living room that she turns into her YouTube studio

by taping a broad piece of paper on the wall.

"But as I started doing this, I realized life starts at 71 years old," she said, adding an extra year as is the custom in Korea and many other

Asian countries.

Park's stardom defies the conventional expectations of the elderly in South Korea, often portrayed in mass media as suffering from poverty or as angry patriots protesting for conservative values. South Korea has the highest elderly poverty rate among developed countries. The country has been struggling to provide better social safety nets or jobs to the elderly populations even when fewer young generations support their aging parents as they are getting less and less attached to the Confucian traditions of revering the aged.

Encouraged by a granddaughter to start making videos as a way to stave off dementia, Park is living it up. She's posed for a women's monthly magazine spread, hosted a home shopping show for retail giant Lotte and will be appearing next week as a model in a YouTube commercial for Samsung's TV.

Her fans travel from across

the country to eat at her diner where one can get filled with a rice and vegetable meal for just \$5 in a remote part of Yongin, a city 34 kilometers (21 miles) south of Seoul with no easy public transport access.

Kim Yura, Park's 27-year-old granddaughter, stopped working as an acting instructor to travel with her grandmother after a doctor told the family she had a high risk of getting Alzheimer's disease like her three elder sisters. Kim took her grandmother to Australia, as a treat after more than 40 years of raising children and running a restaurant.

A video of the grandmother-granddaughter duo visiting Cairns, Australia in January shows Park describing her first time diving in the ocean and her sprinting to a swimming pool like a kid. It was a big hit among young South Koreans: less than six months later, Park has about 400,000 followers on YouTube and Instagram.

## Disney fans get look at 'Incredibles 2,' 'Wreck-It Ralph 2'

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP) — When it comes to Disney, they like to keep it in the family, whether it's getting a football team's worth of original Disney princesses to cameo in "Wreck-It Ralph 2," reuniting "The Incredibles" fourteen years after the original film hit theaters, or securing a new director for "Toy Story 4."

John Lasseter, the chief creative officer of Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios, led a confetti, joke and song-filled presentation of the upcoming animation slate for the studio Friday at the star-studded bi-annual fan convention D23 in Anaheim, just steps from Disneyland with appearances

of people from Kristen Bell to Samuel L. Jackson.

Sporting his signature Disney-themed Hawaiian shirt (this time with "Inside Out" characters) Lasseter, who was also identified as a "former Jungle Cruise Skipper," announced that he would no longer be directing "Toy Story 4." The job is going to "Inside Out" screenwriter Josh Cooley, who was previously going to co-direct with Lasseter. He assured the thousands of fans in attendance that he would be mentoring and guiding Cooley through the process as an Executive Producer. "Toy Story 4" is set for a June 2019 release.

Disney is also getting its most beloved princesses together from Ariel to Mulan for "Wreck-It Ralph Breaks the Internet," in a humorous scene in which Sarah Silverman's Vanellope decides to mess with the princesses and finds them to be cooler than she expected.

Some of the familiar voices audiences can hear when the film hits theaters on March 9, 2018, will include "Beauty and the Beast's" Paige O'Hara, "The Little Mermaid's" Jodi Benson "Mulan's" Ming-Na Wen, "Moana's" Auli'i Cravalho, "Pocahontas's" Irene Bedard, "Tangled's" Mandy Moore, and "Frozen's" Idina Menzel and Kristen Bell.

Lasseter also announced that Taraji P. Henson would be joining the cast as well as an internet savvy character named Yesss (with three s's). The film finds Wreck-It Ralph (John C. Reilly) and Vanellope exploring the internet in hopes of finding an essential replacement part for their arcade game.

Fans also got a sneak peek at "The Incredibles 2," which will be out in June 2018 and focus on Holly Hunter's Elastagirl while Craig T. Nelson's Mr. Incredible stays at home. The scene featured the baby, Jack Jack, getting into a scuffle with a raccoon and showing off some wild powers (think: laser eyes and self-cloning).

director Rob Marshall.

Emily Blunt, who takes on the role of Mary Poppins, said she wanted to "pay homage" to what Julie Andrews had done in the 1964 classic but also "find my own space."

"I had to do my own version of her," Blunt said. "I think she is a little more acerbic and odd and vain and weird in the books. We went that direction a little more."

"Hamilton's" Lin-Manuel Miranda co-stars as a lamp-lighter Jack in a cast that also features Dick Van Dyke, Angela Lansbury, Meryl Streep and Colin Firth. "Mary Poppins Returns" bows on Christmas day, 2018.

Thor, floating and near dead in deep space being rescued by the Guardians of the Galaxy; Spider-Man's hair standing up on his arm; Tony Stark ominously warning that, "He's coming for us," likely talking about Thanos; and Thanos himself gripping a weakened Thor's skull and looking ready to crack it with ease.

"Avengers: Infinity War" comes out May 4, 2018.

Almost on par with the "Infinity War" enthusiasm was the response to the footage for the Mary Poppins sequel "Mary Poppins Returns," a colorful and topsy-turvy new installment in the world of P.L. Travers from

Instead, it was the ultimate Marvel Cinematic Universe team-up "Avengers: Infinity War" that got fans really excited.

Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige was on hand with a stage full of stars that included Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Tom Holland as Spider-Man, Sebastian Stan as The Winter Soldier, Elizabeth Olsen as The Scarlet Witch, and Josh Brolin as the ultimate bad guy Thanos.

The trailer, which has not yet been released online, was packed to the brim with tantalizing scenes, including

## 'Infinity War' upstages 'Star Wars' at star-studded fan expo

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—A hair-raising teaser trailer for "Avengers: Infinity War" stole the show at the star-studded presentation of the Walt Disney Studios upcoming live-action films at the studios' fan convention D23, upstaging even "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," Oprah Winfrey and Mary Poppins.

"Star Wars" fans did get a little morsel of footage in a behind-the-scenes featurette from the upcoming space saga and a lively panel with the film's writer-director Rian Johnson and a few of the film's stars. But audiences have yet to see a full trailer for the film.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Actor Donnie Wahlberg tips \$2K at Charlotte Waffle House

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP) — Actor and New Kids on the Block singer Donnie Wahlberg recently left a whopping \$2,000 tip after dining at a Waffle House in North Carolina. News outlets report Wahlberg ate at the Waffle House in Charlotte on Wednesday evening, documenting his visit in a nearly 11-minute Facebook live video. He was in North Carolina for a New Kids on the Block concert Thursday night. Wahlberg left a \$2,000 tip for an \$82.60 meal. He wrote in a Facebook post that both of his parents waited tables for years, "so when I walk into a #WaffleHouse, and the staff treats me like a king, you better believe I treat them like queens!" He also gave an unsuspecting customer tickets and backstage passes for the concert.

For those wondering what the star ordered: steak, eggs, bacon and grits.

#### Castmates pay tribute to late 'Glee' star Cory Monteith

Some former "Glee" castmates of Cory Monteith have paid tribute to the late actor on the fourth anniversary of his death. Lea Michele posted a picture of herself with Monteith, whom she also dated, on Instagram on Thursday with the caption, "4 years and it

still feels like yesterday.. love you more C." Actress Dianna Agron did the same, calling Monteith a "wonder human." She writes, "I miss every bit of you." Monteith was found dead in a Canadian hotel room on July 13, 2013. A coroner's report blamed the 31-year-old's death on a fatal dose of heroin and alcohol.

#### Justin Trudeau's summer playlist includes Drake, Fiona Apple

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has released an official Spotify playlist. Trudeau unveiled his "PM Mix" of 39 songs on the streaming service Saturday. It includes tracks by Canadian artists such as Drake, Shawn Mendes, k.d. lang and The Tragically Hip, as well as songs by Fiona Apple, R.E.M., Peter Dinklage and Neneh Cherry. Trudeau asked "What am I listening to this summer? What should I be?" in both English and French when he posted the playlist Saturday on Twitter. The 45-year-old prime minister is not the first world leader to publicly share a Spotify playlist. Former President Barack Obama released his summer music selections in two Spotify playlists in 2015. The artists included Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, Coldplay and the Rolling Stones.



# Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher honored as 'Legends' by Disney

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mark Hamill has been bestowed one of Disney's highest honors, but he can't believe Carrie Fisher wasn't there to see it.

Hamill and Fisher were named Disney Legends during a ceremony Friday at the company's biannual fan convention, the D23 Expo in Anaheim, California. He said Fisher would have been making him laugh at the event and treating it with

some irreverence.

"Well, I wish Carrie were here," he said. "She would be making me laugh and be off-camera extending her middle finger—one of her favorite gestures."

Fisher died unexpectedly in December. Hamill said she would want the event to be celebratory and not sad.

"I really wish she were here," he said. "But, she would also want us to be hav-

ing a good time and not be sad."

Hamill said that even hours before the ceremony, he hadn't wrapped his head around receiving the honor, which was also bestowed Friday to Oprah Winfrey, Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee and others. "Star Wars" creator George Lucas and



Hamill

Johnny Depp were among the Disney Legends inductees in 2015.

"When they told me, I said are you sure they're not wanting Mark Harmon or Jon Hamm or even Dorothy Hamill?" Hamill said.

Hamill, 65, reprises his role as Luke Skywalker in

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi," which will be released December. Fisher also appears in the film as Skywalker's sister, Leia Organa, a princess-turned-general.

Disney is expected to reveal new details about the film during a D23 panel on Saturday.

Hamill said he has seen only bits of "The Last Jedi" while doing some additional voice recordings for the film, and those were in black-and-white. "It looks wonderful in black-and-white," he said.

He clarified earlier remarks in which he criticized

director Rian Johnson's decisions for Luke Skywalker in "The Last Jedi."

"I sort of misspoke when I was talking about how I disagreed with a lot of what Rian had decided for the characters. What I should've said was I was really surprised. And I think that's great. I think the unexpected is great, especially in 'Star Wars' films," Hamill said. "But that's the challenge. I love doing things I've never done before. And even Luke, I think, in this incarnation, is a Luke that people have never seen before."

## Coroner: 'The Walking Dead' stuntman dies after on-set fall

ATLANTA (AP) — A stuntman for "The Walking Dead" has died after falling on the Georgia set of the hit television show. It's the first on-set death in the U.S. in nearly three years.

John Bernecker, 33, died about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at an Atlanta hospital after falling on the show's set in Senoia, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Atlanta, Coweta County Coroner Richard Hawk said Friday.

Bernecker died from blunt force trauma and his death is considered accidental, Hawk said.

"The Walking Dead," the often-gory AMC show based on a comic series about people fighting to survive a zombie apocalypse, is filming its eighth season.

Phone and email messages left for AMC representatives were not immediately returned Friday.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has opened an investigation, agency spokesman Michael D'Aquino said in an email Friday.

Bernecker's passing is the first on-set death in the United

States since an audio technician for the show "Cops" was killed during a shootout in Omaha, Nebraska, in August 2014. Cameraman Bryce Dion, 38, was killed at the scene of an attempted armed robbery at a fast-food restaurant by a stray bullet from an Omaha police officer.

Earlier that year, in February 2014, Sarah Jones, 27, died when a freight train slammed into a film crew shooting "Midnight Rider," a movie about the life of singer Gregg Allman. The crash happened on a Georgia railroad bridge where the crew was filming

actor William Hurt in a hospital bed that was placed on the tracks even though owner CSX Transportation had denied permission to production managers.

A lawsuit filed by Jones' parents, who live in Columbia, South Carolina, is currently being tried in Chatham County State Court in Savannah. It says CSX shares equal blame with production managers, who never told Jones and other crew members they were trespassing. They say the railroad should have taken safety precautions to slow the train before the crash.

## Rapper DMX pleads not guilty to dodging \$1.7M tax debt

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper DMX walked free on Friday after pleading not guilty to what the Internal Revenue Service described as a brazen effort to evade \$1.7 million in taxes, saying his faith and loyal fans would keep his career on track.

"It's allowed me to not be scared of the situation and face it head-on, you know what I'm saying?" the multi-platinum hip-hop artist, who's real name is Earl Simmons, told reporters. "My life is in God's hands."

Asked how his fans would react to his latest brush with the law, he responded, "It's reinforcing the love."

DMX, who's from Yonkers, entered the not guilty plea at a brief hearing in federal court in Manhattan. He had surrendered on Thursday and spent a night in custody before being released on \$500,000 bond.

An indictment alleges he stopped paying taxes in the early 2000s at the peak of his career, when he was making millions of dollars off chart-topping songs including "X Gon' Give it to Ya," appearances in movies such as "Romeo Must Die" and performances at sold-out arenas.

As DMX's tax bill skyrocketed, he funneled hundreds of

thousands of dollars in music royalty income into his managers' bank accounts, prosecutors say. The managers took their fees and then gave anything left over to him in cash for his personal expenses, they say.

In another evasion tactic, DMX's managers would take deposits for half of his fee beforehand, and he would collect the rest in cash the day of the performance without reporting the income, the indictment says.

The papers also allege that when taxes were withheld from his first payment for an appearance on the "Couples Therapy" reality show around

2011, he threatened to quit. No further deductions were made after that, they say.

In 2015, DMX, who's 46, was sentenced to six months in jail on charges he failed to pay \$400,000 to his ex-wife for support of their four children.

A magistrate judge on Friday restricted DMX's travel to within the New York City area, except when cleared to perform elsewhere. Outside court, the rapper took the opportunity to plug a hip-hop festival he's headlining on Saturday.

"Tomorrow night. Brooklyn. See you there," he said.



### TWIN KIDS

In this undated image released by Parkwood Entertainment on Friday, July 14, 2017, Beyonce posed with her newborn twins Sir Carter and Rumi. The singer posted the picture on Instagram late Thursday night and wrote in the caption, "Sir Carter and Rumi 1 month today." She didn't mention the babies' genders, but Beyonce's mother wrote on Instagram that the pop star had given birth to a boy and a girl.

AP

## Aunt seeks the right approach to niece in need of guidance

**D**EAR ABBY: I am concerned about my niece. She's 18 and a senior in high school. Her father—my younger brother—is incarcerated and has been for 13 years.

Our families have been alienated, but I'm trying to reach out to my niece. Although she has been hesitant to get close, we've had a couple of face-to-face visits during the past year. She is needy for family, and I know her mother has been overwhelmed having had to raise her on her own.

Long story short, my niece has been dating—for the second time—a man her father's age. She lives a few hours away, so most of what I see is on social media. I don't understand how this man thinks it's OK. My niece looks like she's only 13. It makes me cringe, yet I feel this isn't my business or within my power to change. You can tell me this is none of my business and I should just walk away, but my niece is vulnerable and I'm worried about her.

WORRIED AUNT IN TEXAS

**DEAR WORRIED AUNT:** Your niece may be vulnerable in your opinion, but she is also 18. She may have father issues that need to be ironed out, but considering the man has been absent since she was 5, that's not surprising.

I agree that this isn't within your power to change. My

advice is to be there for her when she will allow it, be as supportive as you can, resist the urge to try to fill a parental role and do a lot of listening.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 64. When I was an insecure 15-year-old, I liked showing off for my two best friends. We often made fun of other kids behind their backs. With them, my smart mouth got me the attention I craved.

One day I slipped up and whispered something too loudly. The girl heard what I said about her, and the stricken look on her face told me how much it hurt.

I looked for her at our 20th reunion wanting to apologize, but she was absent. I wish I could take back what I said, but I can't. However, I have spent the last 49 years trying to be kind to others to make up for it.

If there are people who read your column who remember a stinging remark that was aimed at them, please let them know that some of us regret it very much. I hope they find forgiveness so they can be free of bitterness and hurt. I am truly sorry.

MISS SMART MOUTH IN OKLAHOMA

**DEAR MISS SMART MOUTH:** I'm glad you wrote because I'm sure more than one reader has been the target of unkind remarks at one time or another, and even may have

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

made a few themselves. An apology to your classmate was definitely in order, even if 20 years late. Too bad the woman wasn't around to hear it.

I'll share something with you a trial lawyer once told me. He said, "You can't unring the bell." What he meant by it was that a judge can instruct a jury to "disregard that statement," but once something is out there, it's very hard to erase from memory. The context may be different, but it applies to relationships, too.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



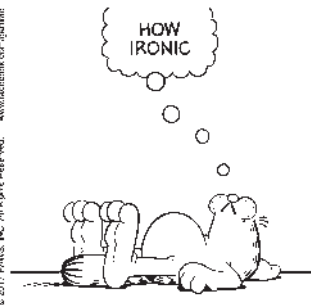
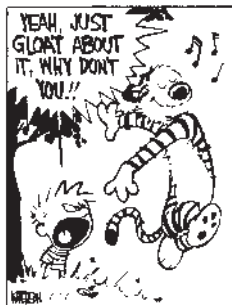
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

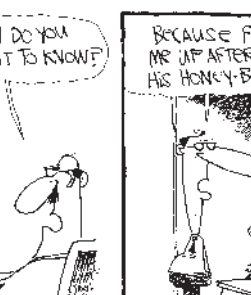
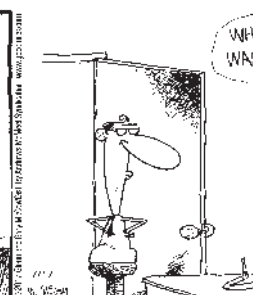
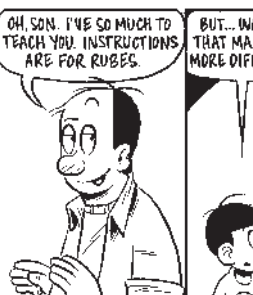


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 German city

5 "Alice" waitress

8 Classic theaters

12 Sandwich treat

13 Couple's pronoun

14 Check

15 Pitcher Nolan

16 Pass

18 Still existing

20 Fluffy dessert

21 Mineral-hardness scale name

23 Recipe abbr.

24 Wrestling move

28 Billions of years

31 Hostel

32 Plum relatives

34 Carnival city

35 PTA concern

**DOWN**

1 Drill

2 African antelope

3 Spruced up

4 Generic, as products

5 Sturdy

6 Candy-heart word

7 Utah city

8 Dense

9 Migration of a sort

10 BPOE members

11 Sheltered

17 Hog-wash

19 Agrees silently

22 Dive like a hawk

24 Dead heat

25 More-over

26 Finger joints

27 Recent recruits

29 Zero

30 Fa follower

33 Tizzy

36 Alpine home

38 In need of toning

40 Acapulco gold

42 Not many

43 Scruff

44 Eager

46 Zhivago's love

47 — uproar

48 Barrel

50 Mound stat

**Solution time: 28 mins.**

**Friday's answer 7-17**

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Luke Bryan, 41; Jason Clarke, 48; David Hasselhoff, 65; Donald Sutherland, 82.

**Happy Birthday:** Attitude is everything, and getting along with others will help you get ahead. Don't rule out helping people when it can be a perfect way to work your way into a group that has something to offer you in return. Make this year about building alliances and securing your future, not about isolation and uncertainty. Your numbers are 2, 7, 15, 24, 28, 33, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Choose to be strategic rather than impulsive. Acting in haste will get you into an argument or troublesome situation. Gauge what you want to accomplish and concentrate on the tasks at hand, not what others are doing. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take a moment to pause and rethink your next move. What you do in haste will leave you open to ridicule. Anger and stubbornness will not work in your favor. Anticipate the desired outcome before you step into the spotlight. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Charm will go a long way, but if you use false information to entice people to lend a hand, you aren't likely to succeed. Offer the truth and do your own thing. Don't get involved in anything shady. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Begin your day with a plan. Strategize and work alongside those who feel the same way you do. Refuse to let anyone railroad you into

taking on something that doesn't interest you. Work hard to get ahead. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take stock of what everyone around you is doing. Emotions will surface if you don't assess what needs to be done and contribute your share. Look for any opportunity to do your part and to form alliances with your peers. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take part in the activities going on in your neighborhood. You will learn from an experience with someone who is different than you. Observation and asking questions will give you a better understanding of the possibilities and opportunities that exist. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Be smart and get your responsibilities out of the way early in the day. If you wait for someone to help you out, you are likely to be disappointed. Keep the peace and don't ask for too much. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll be faced with situations that will require some sort of response. Look at all the variables and consider the consequences before you take action. Your position or reputation will depend on how you handle matters. Don't be afraid to be different. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You can enjoy things without engaging in emotional spending. Physical challenges and mental debates will keep you on your toes. You don't have to overdo things to make an impression. Aim to have fun and you won't be alone. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Make changes at home or to the way you live that will make your life easier and your relationships with loved ones better. Spending more time engaging in family outings and plans will bring you closer together. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Control your emotions. Being stubborn will not help you move forward. Bring out the best in yourself by showing how open and willing you are to adapt and make situations work. A positive attitude will help you excel. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Use your intuition when dealing with personal matters. Don't make an impulsive move just to impress someone. Do your own thing and don't worry about what others do. If someone comes to you with a request, be wary of his or her motives. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are specific, dedicated and handy. You are sensitive and heroic.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5					4		6	9
		6		9		3		4
	9		8	6			1	
		5				9		7
	7			5			2	
8		1				6		
	6		1		5		9	
9		7		8		2		
2	5		6					8

Difficulty Level ★

7/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	9	6	8	7	3	5	4
8	5	6	4	1	3	2	9	7
7	4	3	5	2	9	8	6	1
5	2	8	3	4	6	7	1	9
1	6	7	9	5	8	4	3	2
3	9	4	2	7	1	6	8	5
9	8	5	7	6	2	1	4	3
4	7	1	8	3	5	9	2	6
6	3	2	1	9	4	5	7	8

Difficulty Level: ★★

7/17

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THAI MASSAGES

Solution: 8 letters

G G G N I E B L L E W P S T T  
C N N I A P Y S O U L L S H H  
O I I O @ @ @ Y X G E P E U A  
M K L L G N S A N N I R R M I  
P C L A A J L I N R A S T B L  
R A U H O E H A I P E C S T A  
E R P I R C H T E L U P S E N  
S C N L T C U U C L O T H E D  
S T O E S A T S T S A L T F T  
E B R G L I U U I T U R E S N  
D T M S C M R T I T I S S U E  
S E N I L A I C F E I L E R I  
K N E E L O R G A N S M L A C  
N O I S N E T I A H T T A U N  
N I K S E R U S S E R P U C A

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7/17

Acupressure, Ancient, Body, Calm, Channels, Clothed, Compressed, Cracking, Cultural, Feet, Hands, Healing, Joint, Kneel, Last, Legs, Limbs, Lines, Muscles, Nuat Thai, Organs, Pain, Positions, Pulling, Relax, Relief, Skin, Soul, Spiritual, Static, Stress, Stretching, Tension, Thailand, Therapeutic, Thumb, Tissue, Toes, Well-being, Yoga

Last Friday's Answer: Shrinking

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com), or call 1-800-642-6480.



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www.guam.wish.org



"I want to be a firefighter!"  
B/ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Saipan Tribune

PUBLIC NOTICE

DOCOMO PACIFIC proposes to build a 112-foot monopole. The site location is 42nd Street and Broadway, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands or at coordinates 14-58-51.4 N, 145-37-48.1 E. The FCC ASR, Form 854 file number is A1085053. Interested persons may review the application ([www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications)) by entering the file number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review ([www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest)).

The mailing address to file a paper copy is:  
FCC Requests for Environmental Review,  
Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW,  
Washington, DC 20554.

Saipan Ice & Water Co., Inc.

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For more information, please call

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at (670) 322-6130

PUBLIC NOTICE

Saipan Shipping Company, Inc. would like to inform the public that there will be no sailing to the islands of Tinian and Rota for the month of July due to dry-docking of the barge. The next tentative sailing schedule will be on August 26, 2017 (Weather Permitting).

Please feel free to contact our office at (670) 322-9706/07 or via email at [mary\\_tenorio@saipanshipping.com](mailto:mary_tenorio@saipanshipping.com) if you have any questions or would like to make a booking. Thank you for your understanding.

WHATZIT Solution: Stick 'em up!

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 07/07/17      Closing Date: 07/21/17\*

JVA#17-010:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:

Trades Technician I  
\$18,329.33  
Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian

JVA#17-011:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:


Marketing Specialist I  
\$23,394.03  
Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-012:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:

Accountant II  
\$25,791.92  
Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

\*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY  
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport  
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055  
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2017

Opening date: July 5, 2017      Closing date: July 25, 2017

Positions:    (1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian)  
                      (1) Accountant-I (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport is no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, 2017.

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# Is Garbine Muguruza heir to Williams sisters?



LONDON (AP)—

Shortly after beating Venus Williams in the Wimbledon final, Garbine Muguruza was given a purple-and-gold circular badge signifying that she is a member of the All England Club, an honorary status accorded to tournament champions.

"I'm like, 'I'm going to wear it right now,'" Muguruza said.

So she attached that hard-to-earn pin to her white zippered jacket, just over her heart, and fiddled with the thing while speaking to a small group of reporters Saturday evening.

Muguruza noted that after losing in the 2015 Wimbledon final to Williams' sister, Serena, she didn't get the same treatment, of course: Runners-up don't get the membership or its privileges.

"It's all or nothing," Muguruza said. "So I'm like, 'Whew, this year, I finally did it.'"

This 7-5, 6-0 victory over Venus, combined with Muguruza's win against Serena in last year's French Open final, made the 23-year-old Spaniard the only woman to defeat each Williams sister in a Grand Slam title match. That alone marks her as a likely, and worthy, heir to the two women who changed their sport.

Add in Muguruza's bold, aggressive playing style and affinity for the big stage, and she certainly looks like someone who could keep doing what she wants to do more than anything: win major championships.

That matters more to her than where she is in the rankings, for example. She entered Wimbledon at No. 15, and will rise to No. 5 on Monday.

Her career-best is No. 2, but that doesn't seem to concern Muguruza all that much.

"I don't know what it feels to be No. 1. Hopefully one day I can—and then I (can) compare," she said. "But



AP

Spain's Garbine Muguruza holds the trophy after defeating Venus Williams of the United States in the Women's Singles final match on day twelve at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Saturday, July 15, 2017.

for now, I'd rather be No. 10 (and win Grand Slams, than be No. 1."

The key, she and others agree, will be finding more consistency. Saturday's final against the older Williams was Muguruza's first since the 2016 French Open.

Not just her first final at a Grand Slam tournament since then, mind you. Her first anywhere.

To establish her place among the truly elite, she'll need to more frequently summon the power and precision that she has managed to find on the most stressful occasions.

"Hopefully she can stay a little

bit more steady," said Conchita Martinez, the Spanish Fed Cup and Davis Cup captain who worked with Muguruza during Wimbledon because her regular coach, Sam Sumyk, took time off for the birth of his child.

"The key is to continue routines, continue to work hard," Martinez said. "And to focus in every tournament you play is important."

Also worth keeping an eye on now: How Muguruza handles the aftermath of this latest triumph.

She acknowledged that she found it burdensome to deal with the expecta-

tations that came with her first major championship. That was one factor in her results since, including only a 23-13 record this season entering Wimbledon.

"It's just hard, when you're playing very good and you want to keep that, and maybe it doesn't happen. You feel like, 'Why (can't I) play that good every week?'" she said.

At Roland Garros last month, Muguruza lost in the fourth round, then got choked up during her post-match news conference, saying she was happy to leave behind all the questions about the pressures of trying to

defend that title.

"I'm going to have a similar problem now, which is a good problem to have," Muguruza said Saturday. "I just changed (the) page really fast. I was sad for a few days. But I'm like, 'Just forget about it.' ... And that's it. And I forgot."

The challenge is to remember how to play more frequently the way she did for those two special weeks in Paris two years ago, and these two special weeks in London this year.

If she can do that, there's no telling how many of these things she can win.

## Venus Williams falls short of 6th Wimbledon title at age 37

LONDON (AP)—Through it all, Venus Williams kept working, kept striving, kept eyeing yet another Wimbledon championship.

Through it all, through the difficult days of adjusting to life with an energy-sapping autoimmune disease, through the disappointing days of first-round losses that led to questions about retirement, through all of the accumulating years, she pressed on. And on Saturday, facing Garbine Muguruza in the final, Williams had a shot at her sixth title at the All England Club—nine years after her last one and, remarkably, 17 years after her first.

Williams twice was a point from taking the opening set before unraveling completely, dropping the last nine games and losing 7-5, 6-0 to Muguruza, who earned her first Wimbledon championship.

"This is where you want

to be. I like to win. I don't want to just get to a final," said Williams, at 37 the oldest woman to play in a title match at the grass-court major since 1994. "It's just about playing a little better."

She appeared ready to take control Saturday, ahead 5-4 in the first set and with Muguruza serving at 15-40. But Williams netted a forehand to close a 20-stroke exchange on the first set point. And on the second, she sent a return long. Muguruza would go on to win that game - and the next eight, too, to earn her third Grand Slam trophy.

Williams owns seven of them—five at Wimbledon in 2000-01, 2005, 2007 and 2008; two at the U.S. Open in 2000-01.

But her coach, David Witt, offered one explanation for the way everything came undone for Williams

against Muguruza.

"It was just nerves," Witt said.

"She never, I thought, looked like she was relaxed out there," he added.

Williams arrived in England a few weeks after being involved in a two-car accident in Florida. Two weeks after the crash, a 78-year-old passenger in the other vehicle died. At a news conference following her first-round victory at Wimbledon, Williams was asked about the episode, and she tried to respond, before wiping away tears and briefly leaving the room to compose herself.

Witt said they hadn't discussed what happened with each other once the tournament began, hoping Williams could "just focus on the tennis."

Up until late in the first set Saturday, Williams did play

quite well.

In 2011, she revealed she had been diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, a condition that can cause exhaustion and joint pain. Williams has since spoken about how she turned to a plant-based diet and learned other ways to get by. A half-dozen exits from majors after her opening match made some think Williams might stop playing tennis, let alone return to its biggest stages.

"There were definitely," Williams said this week, "some issues."

But she never lost her love for the sport or a desire to get her game back in order.

"I'm just very surprised that she's hungry to keep winning. She has won almost everything. She's not (still) young, to be looking forward to all these matches. She just shows this toughness," Muguruza said. "I don't know if I will be

like this @ her age."

The strongest initial sign of a renaissance for Williams came during a run to the Wimbledon semifinals a year ago. Then, this January, she got to the Australian Open final for the first time since 2003, losing to her sister, Serena. And then came these past two weeks and her first appearance in the Wimbledon final since a loss to Serena in 2009.

"I've been in a position a lot of times this year to contend for big titles. That's the kind of position I want to keep putting myself in," Williams said. "It's just about getting over the line. I believe I can do that."

She was asked more than once by reporters Saturday whether the Sjogren's or the accumulated fatigue or her age played a role in the way the match unfolded. But Williams deflected those questions, instead offering praise

of Muguruza, whose power and precision gave the American problems.

"Credit to her," Williams said. "She just dug in there."

Williams hit five double-faults, three in one game and once to get broken to begin the second set. She finished with 25 unforced errors, more than twice as many as Muguruza.

"She started pressing in the second," Witt observed, "and balls were flying out like you don't see."

This was Williams' 16th Grand Slam final, second of 2017.

She sounded certain that it won't be the last.

Asked during the on-court trophy presentation if she had a message for Serena, who is off the tour while expecting a baby, Venus said: "Oh, I miss you. I tried my best to do the same things you do, but I think that there'll be other opportunities. I do."

After all that's gone on, why doubt her now?



# Yankees top Red Sox 4-1 in 16th; Boston plays under protest



**BOSTON**  
(AP)—In the long-storied

history of the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry, this was among the longer ones—nearly six hours, more than 500 pitches.

That is, if it's officially over.

Didi Gregorius lined a go-ahead single in the 16th inning and New York wound up winning 4-1 Saturday in a game Boston played under protest after a bizarre sequence on the bases. Not since 1966 had the Yankees and Red Sox gone so deep at Fenway Park.

Matt Holliday hit a tying home run off Boston closer Craig Kimbrel in the ninth that cleared the Green Monster, and it took 5 hours, 50 minutes and 512 pitches to finish.

Both teams burned through their bullpens, and the relievers won't get much rest—the Yankees and the AL East-leading Red Sox were set for a day-night doubleheader Sunday.

"It's a good feeling," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "That's a long grueling game and Matt Holliday hits a huge home run in the ninth inning to tie it up that led to however many innings we played."

Holliday drew a leadoff walk in the 11th and Jacoby Ellsbury followed with a grounder to first baseman Mitch Moreland, who threw to second for a forceout. Holliday, however, retreated toward first and slid into the bag as shortstop Xander Bogaerts' throw arrived.

Moreland wasn't able to reach the ball, which hit Ellsbury and bounced into foul territory. Boston manager John Farrell argued in favor of an interference call and after a lengthy review, the umpires allowed Ellsbury to stay on first.

"I didn't know (Moreland) didn't touch (first) base," Holliday said. "I thought with Ells running he was going to touch the base and go to second."

Crew chief Gary Cederstrom told a pool reporter that he didn't think there was interference.

"No," he said. "It's under protest so the rest of it you're going to have to get from the office."

Boston starter Chris Sale struck out 13 in 7 2/3 scoreless innings of three-hit ball. He leads the majors with 191 strikeouts.

"A lot of opportunities, a lot of missed opportunities, a lot of very good pitching over the majority of today," Farrell said. "Chris Sale was outstanding once again. A rare non-converted save by Craig today and then some opportunities following that. A base hit with men in scoring position just wasn't there today."

Yankees starter Luis Severino



ino allowed one run and four hits in seven innings. He gave up Moreland's sacrifice fly in the third.

"When you get somebody like Sale pitching, you have to get going to try your best," Severino said.

Ben Heller (1-0) went two innings. Seven Yankees relievers combined to blank Boston on four hits for nine innings.

Doug Fister (0-3) gave up three runs in the 16th. Ellsbury led off with a double, Gregorius and Austin Romine hit RBI singles and Gary Sanchez added a sacrifice fly.

A day after Yankees blew a ninth-inning lead and lost, they rallied to win for just the eighth time in 28 games. New York closed within 3 1/2 games of Boston.

The Red Sox had been 43-0 when leading after eight. Kimbrel, the winning pitcher in the All-Star Game on Tuesday night, had his first career blown save at Fenway following 30 successful ones.

The clubs last played 16 innings at Fenway on June 4, 1966, when Jim Gosger's three-run homer gave Boston a 6-3 victory. In 2015, Boston beat New York 6-5 in 19 innings at Yankee Stadium.

"Sometimes one pitch can be the outcome of the entire game," Kimbrel said. "It seemed like that was kind of it today."

## Dodgers 7, Marlins 1

In Miami, Cody Bellinger became the first Dodgers rookie to hit for the cycle while Alex Wood became the first Dodgers pitcher in more than a century to win his first 11 decisions in a season, helping the NL West leaders extend their winning streak to eight.

Bellinger singled in the first, hit a two-run homer in the third, added an RBI double in the fourth and hit his second career triple on the first pitch of the seventh, becoming the ninth player in the Dodgers' 128-year history to hit for the cycle.

Wood (11-0) struck out 10 in six scoreless innings, allowed only four baserunners and lowered his ERA to 1.56 in 16 games this year.

An angry Yasiel Puig took several steps toward the mound after he was nearly hit by a pitch from Jose Urena (7-4) in the first inning. Puig hit two home runs in Los Angeles' win Friday.

## Padres 5, Giants 3

In San Diego, Madison Bumgarner allowed four hits over seven innings, including home runs by Matt Szczur and Jabari Blash, in his first start since being injured in a dirt bike accident. He left with the score tied at 3-3.

Bumgarner was making his first start since April 19 at Kansas City. The next day, he wiped out while riding a dirt bike on a day off in Denver, spraining the AC joint in his left shoulder and suffering bruised ribs.

Hector Sanchez hit a two-run homer in the ninth against Cory Gearrin (3-3), sending San Francisco to its six loss in eight games.

## Cubs 10, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, making his first appearance at Camden Yards since he was traded by Baltimore four years ago, Jake Arrieta (9-7) walked three in the first two innings, then settled down to hold the Orioles to four hits over 6 2/3 innings.

Addison Russell homered for the second straight game and Albert Almora and Anthony Rizzo also went deep for Chicago, which hit eight homers in winning the first two games of the series.

## Nationals 10, Reds 7

In Cincinnati, Anthony Rendon hit his second career grand slam and added a two-run homer as Washington overcame Scooter Gennett's four-RBI night.

Ryan Raburn homered to lead off the seventh, sparking a seven-run outburst capped by Rendon's 18th homer as the Nationals took a 10-0 lead.

Max Scherzer (11-5) finished with 10 strikeouts in six innings, his 12th game of the season and 61st of his career with at least 10. He issued a season-high four walks while allowing three hits.

## Mets 9, Rockies 3

In New York, Jay Bruce and pitcher Seth Lugo homered during an early barrage that sent Colorado to its 15th loss in 20 games.

Jose Reyes also went deep and Lucas Duda had a two-run double as New York took full advantage of a calf injury that knocked Tyler Chatwood (6-11) from the chat after one out, 19 pitches and three walks.

## Tigers 11, Blue Jays 1

In Detroit, J.D. Martinez had five RBIs with a two-run single and a three-run homer while Michael Fulmer (10-6) won his fourth straight start, giving up one run and two hits in eight innings.

Francisco Liriano (5-5) allowed five runs, three hits and four walks in two-plus innings.

## Cardinals 4, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Lance Lynn (8-6) allowed eight hits in 6 1/3 innings and hit a run-scoring double. Lynn hasn't allowed a run in his last 13 1/3 innings.

Jameson Taillon (5-3) lost for the first time in nearly a month, giving up four runs in five innings and matching his season high by allowing eight hits.

Pittsburgh left nine runners on base and went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

## Braves 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Atlanta, little-used Lane Adams drove in three runs with a go-ahead, pinch-hit, bases-loaded double in the sixth.

Adams was hitting only .214 in 28 at-bats before his double to the left-field wall off Randall Delgado (1-2) cleared the bases.

Ian Krol (2-2) recorded the final out in the sixth, and Jim Johnson pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

## Mariners 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager homered as Seattle overcame three errors to win their third straight.

Felix Hernandez (5-3) plunked Jose Abreu twice and threw a wild pitch. But Cruz's two-run shot off Anthony Swarzak (4-3) — just the second homer allowed by the reliever this season — made it 4-3 Mariners in the sixth.

Steve Cishek, Tony Zych and Nick Vincent each pitched a scoreless inning before Edwin Diaz finished for his 15th save in 18 chances. The right-hander struck out Abreu with runners on first and second for the final out.

Boston Red Sox's Tzu-Wei Lin goes into the stands after catching the pop foul by New York Yankees' Jacoby Ellsbury during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Boston, Friday, July 14, 2017.

## Twins 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Brian Dozier homered and Eddie Rosario hit a tiebreaking two-run double off Tony Sipp in the sixth after Minnesota loaded the bases against Joe Muro (4-8).

Ervin Santana (11-6) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings and Brandon Kintzler pitched a scoreless ninth for his 25th save.

## Brewers 3, Phillies 2

In Milwaukee, Travis Shaw broke an eighth-inning tie against Joaquin Benoit (1-4) with his 20th homer as Milwaukee (52-41) moved a season-high 11 games over .500.

Jacob Barnes (2-1) escaped an eight-inning jam thanks to a slick double play after he walked two batters.

Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 16th save. He struck out Tommy Joseph for his 45th consecutive appearance with a strikeout to start the season, a major league record.

## Rangers 1, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Shin-Soo Choo flared a lazy fly ball down the left-field line for a single with one out in the ninth, driving in the only run off Danny Duffy (5-6) as Texas won its 12th straight win over Kansas City dating to last July.

Duffy and Cole Hamels matched each other through seven innings and Jose Leclerc (2-2) relieved Hamels with two out in the eighth.

## Athletics 5, Indians 3

In Oakland, California, Khris Davis hit his 25th homer, a two-run shot in the ninth off Bryan Shaw after Andrew Miller (3-3) walked Yonder Alonso.

Rookie third baseman Matt Chapman homered twice and scored three runs while Rajai Davis added an RBI single for the A's.

## Rays 6, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Alex Cobb (8-6) gave up one run, six hits and three walks in 7 2/3 innings. After surrendering a career-high nine earned runs on June 3 to fall to 4-5 with a 4.52 ERA, Cobb has gone 4-1 with a 2.16 ERA in his last seven starts.

Morrison hit a two-run homer in the third to give him 59 RBIs this season. Steven Souza added a solo home run.



# Go west, young man: NBA stars cluster in Western Conference

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—As star after star headed West this summer either in free agency or via trade, Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers became more and more bewildered.

“I think Gordon Hayward’s the smartest one. He got out of town,” Rivers said, referring to the All-Star’s move from Utah to Boston. “He went to the East. I really don’t understand the logic of this. It is what it is. It’s just going to be a harder conference, if that’s possible.”

Paul George, Jimmy Butler and Paul Millsap were all All-Stars in the Eastern Conference last season who will play in the West next season. Chris Paul chose to leave the Clippers, but stayed in the West to join James Harden in Houston and important role players like Jeff Teague, P.J. Tucker and Patrick Patterson all left teams in the East to come West for a run at the Golden State Warriors.

Rather than running from the Warriors, who burned down the league last season and seemed poised to dominate for the near future with four All-Stars all in their prime, most teams in the West are running right into the fire.

“The other way, that’s a defeatist attitude,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. “How long can you wait? I don’t know if Kevin Durant, Steph Curry, Klay and those guys are going anywhere for a while. You just can’t go into hibernation, wake up and say, ‘OK, it’s our time.’ We compete.”

One of the most common measurements of a single player’s impact on a team’s overall success is win shares - an analytic that estimates



the number of wins a player produces for his team. Using that as a guide, calculated by the research site basketball-reference.com, the Western Conference has added 174.5 win shares to its roster this summer. That number takes into account free agent signings, like Millsap leaving Atlanta for Denver, the major trades of George from Indiana to Oklahoma City and Butler to Minnesota, and the re-signings of players including Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant with Golden State.

The Eastern Conference, by contrast, added 127.6 win shares by Friday afternoon. Hayward was the lone bankable star to move from the West to the East, while Kyle Lowry re-signed with Toronto and Otto Porter stayed with Washington on a new four-year, \$110 million deal.

For more than two decades the Western Conference has lorded over the East in terms of talent disparity. Next year figures to be a bigger gap than ever before.

“You would think with all

the picks that the East has had over the last 15 years, but they draft a great guy and he comes West,” Rivers said. “So I don’t know what’s going on. Growing up it was the exact opposite. It was the East and the Lakers when I was a kid. Now it’s the West and a couple of teams. It’s just a period we’re going through I guess. I hope it stops.”

Two years ago, the league explored the idea of changing the playoff format to seed teams 1-16 regardless of conference. But concerns about excessive travel and the fact that the team records were often skewed by the level of competition they most often faced in the regular season led the NBA to stick with the status quo.

On Wednesday, NBA commissioner Adam Silver did not rule out revisiting the issue again down the road.

“I think many of us felt a 1-16 playoff made more sense,” Silver said, referring to the committee discussions two years ago. “And maybe there’s also the potential, it’s in some ways a separate issue,

should you reseed after every round as some leagues do? I think those are the things we’ll continue to look at, but it’s not at the top of the agenda right now.”

Rockets GM Daryl Morey joked on Twitter that his front office full of deep thinkers were combing the Collective Bargaining Agreement for a clause that would allow

**AP**  
In this July 13, 2017, file photo, Denver Nuggets new NBA basketball forward Paul Millsap, second from left, holds up his new jersey as Josh Kroenke, team president and governor, left, Tim Connelly, president of basketball operations and Arturas Karnisovas, general manager of the Nuggets, join in for a photograph during Millsap’s introduction to the media at a news conference in Denver.

them to relocate to the Eastern Conference. But rather than lament their geography, the Rockets, Timberwolves, Nuggets and Thunder all made major moves to try to catch the Warriors.

“It’s a weapons race in the NBA and you’re either in the weapons race or on the sidelines,” Morey said in June after acquiring Paul from the Clippers.

Rivers and GM Lawrence Frank could have shifted into rebuilding mode after losing Paul in hopes of resurfacing when the Warriors started to decline.

Instead, they landed versatile forward Danilo Gallinari

from Denver, re-signed Blake Griffin and turned Paul’s decision to join the Rockets into an opportunity for a sign-and-trade with Houston that netted them Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams, Montrezl Harrell and Sam Dekker. They also signed flashy European point guard Milos Teodosic to try to prevent bottoming out.

J.J. Redick surveyed the landscape before making his decision to move from the Clippers to the emerging Philadelphia 76ers. And while he said he did not want to make any knee-jerk reactions to what he called “a drastic change in the talent pool of each conference,” seeing an easier path to the playoffs out East did play a small role in taking a one-year, \$23 million deal.

“When Paul went to OKC, right there before free agency started, that’s when it started to creep into the back of my head,” Redick said. “It was in the back of my mind for sure. But I think even prior to that, I thought there was a chance Philly could be a playoff team.”

advance to the playoffs with the No. 1 and No. 4 teams battling for the first finals berth and the No. 2 and 3 finishers colliding in the other semis game. In the co-ed U12, the Top 2 teams after the double-round robin elimination will fight for the division championship. The title matches are set for Aug. 4.

## SSS

From Page 28

finishers in the basketball and futsal mini tournaments got medals, while the more than 100 graduates of the camp received gift sets and certificates of completion.

SSS staff May Ito, who led the awarding of certificates to the graduates, thanked all the participants and their parents for their participation and hopes to see them join the camp again next year and play in various tournaments on Saipan.

Meanwhile, SSS will kick off the 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament today at the TSL Sports Complex.

There will be games in three divisions: co-ed U12,

girls U17, and boys U16. Kanoa 1, 2, and 3, and SSS are entered in the U12, while the girls U17 has Hakone FC, F. Marinos, Isamu United, and Marianas Health Armada. The boys U16 division also has four squads in NMI U16, HK SSS, 4Gives FC, and Kanoa.

Kanoa 2 and SSS will kick off the action in the futsal tournament as they play in the 1:30pm match. Other matches in the opening day are Hakone FC vs F. Marinos at 2:30pm, 4Gives vs Kanoa at 3:30pm, Isamu United vs Marianas Health Armada at 4:30pm, and NMI U16 vs HK SSS at 5:30pm.

The boys U16 and girls U17 have a double-round robin format and all four squads will

also really hot,” the CNMI junior player added.

The tournament will be played at the Dushanbe Central Stadium and coaches of Pacific Oceania, host Tajikistan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan had a meeting last night to determine the draw. The 13 teams will be grouped into four with three pools having four squads and one with three squads. A round-robin format will be in place for each pool and the top squad in each group will advance to the semis. The champion team will then be promoted to Group 1, joining China, Japan, India, Thailand, South Korea, and Kazakhstan.

## TRIUMPHANT

From Page 28

one catch, but a big one so we are very happy,” said Roque, who named the 26-foot boat after his wife Debbie.

“This one did not get away, but we had a hard time loading it to the boat,” Roque added.

Debbie 1 reeled in the prized catch around 10am and Roque and company called it a day, returning to the dock of Smiling Cove Marina around 12pm. Staff from the Division of Fish and Wildlife then had to use a boom truck to bring in the nearly 10-foot marlin to the weighing station.

“We got this outside the Goat Island,” said Roque, who joined the Saipan Fishermen Association-organized tournament for the first time in 2012 and missed the competition

for four years before returning this year. The winning boat is based in Agat, Guam and placed second in the mahi category when it debuted in the SFA tournament.

Debbie 1’s marlin will get the grand prize (unofficial) of this year’s event, grabbing the victory from Day 1 leader *Aquaholics*, who got a 344.50-lb billfish. *Brett Two* had the third heaviest marlin at 201.75, while *DBGY* recorded the fourth heaviest at 184.85. The final rankings in the billfish category have yet to be announced, officially and the results reported were just based on the tally board on display at the competition site as of 5:30pm yesterday. *Debbie 1*, *Aquaholics*, *Brett Two*, and *DBGY*’s catches surpassed the 137.40-lb marlin *Padre De Familia* got when

the latter won last year’s competition.

*Aquaholics* took the lead after Day 1 when it brought in its marlin at the weighing station between 5pm and 5:30pm. *Aquaholics* captain Robert S. Diaz and his crewmembers had to be patient before they could find out the weight of their marlin, as the scale malfunctioned. With the weighing scale still not working, officials decided to measure the marlin before taking it out of Smiling Cove Marina to have it weighed in the event’s alternate scale.

Meanwhile, the champions in the yellowfin and skipjack tuna, mahi, and wahoo categories will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*’s Wednesday edition, as the winners will be officially announced tonight at the awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	51	40	.560	—
Tampa Bay	49	43	.533	2½
New York	46	42	.523	3½
Toronto	42	48	.467	8½
Baltimore	42	48	.467	8½
Central Division				
Cleveland	47	42	.528	—
Minnesota	46	44	.511	1½
Kansas City	44	45	.494	3
Detroit	40	49	.449	7
Chicago	38	51	.427	9
West Division				
Houston	61	30	.670	—
Texas	45	45	.500	15½
Seattle	45	47	.489	16½
Los Angeles	45	49	.479	17½
Oakland	41	50	.451	20
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	54	36	.600	—
Atlanta	44	45	.494	9½
New York	41	47	.466	12
Miami	41	48	.461	12½
Philadelphia	29	60	.326	24½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	52	41	.559	—
Chicago	45	45	.500	5½
St. Louis	44	46	.489	6½
Pittsburgh	43	48	.473	8
Cincinnati	39	51	.433	11½
West Division				
Los Angeles	63	29	.685	—
Arizona	53	38	.582	9½
Colorado	52	41	.559	11½
San Diego	39	51	.433	23
San Francisco	35	57	.380	28
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League U18 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



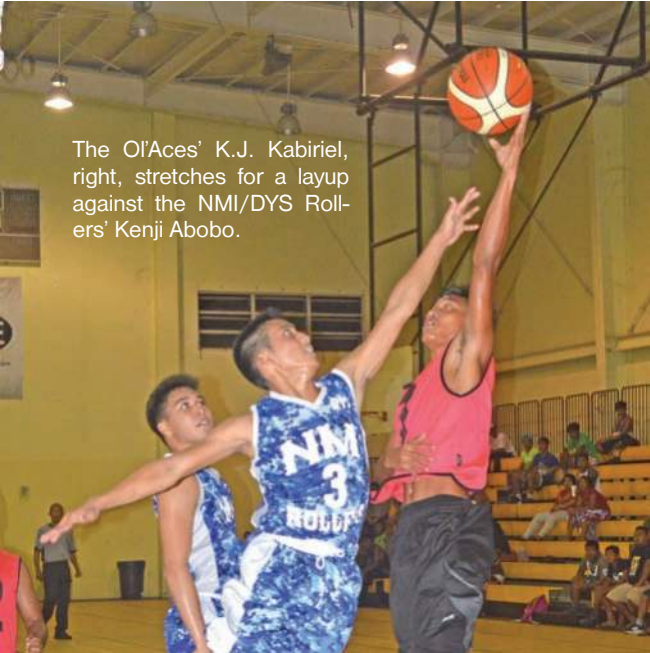
The OI'Aces' N-nes Siech tries to save the ball during the second quarter of their title game against the NMI/DYS Rollers in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The NMI/DYS Rollers' Warren Ellama drives against the OI'Aces' Jeff Castro.



The NMI/DYS Rollers' Emannuel Cobacha shoots in front of the defense of the OI'Aces' Coby Santos.



The OI'Aces' K.J. Kabiriel, right, stretches for a layup against the NMI/DYS Rollers' Kenji Abobo.



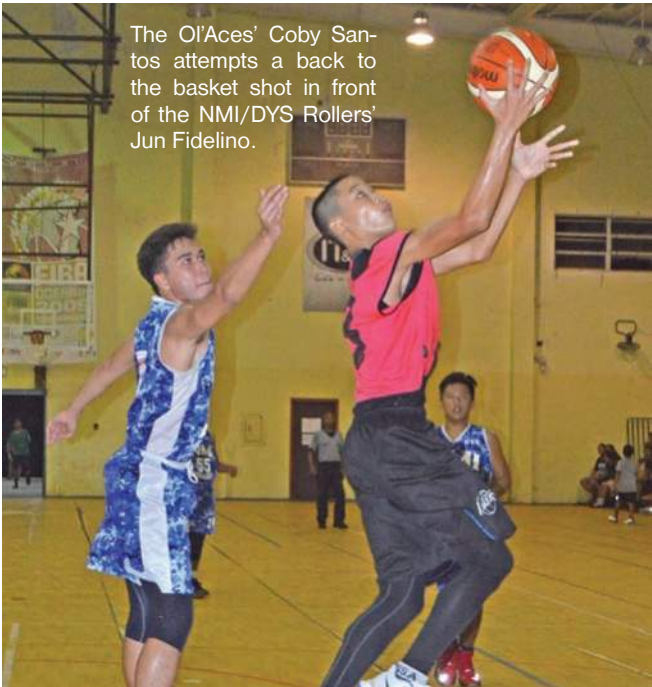
The OI'Aces Jerald Castillo slips past the defense of NMI/DYS Rollers for an open shot.



The NMI/DYS Rollers' Jon Mendoza fakes off the defense of the OI'Aces Jerald Castillo.



The OI'Aces Aiferson Atan unloads a floater.



The OI'Aces' Coby Santos attempts a back to the basket shot in front of the NMI/DYS Rollers' Jun Fidelino.





Is Garbine  
Muguruza heir  
to Williams  
sisters?

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Yankees top Red  
Sox 4-1 in 16th;  
Boston plays  
under protest

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28 MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Triumphant return for Debbie 1



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

*Debbie 1* captain Roque Chaco, second left, joins his crewmembers, wife Debbie, and other family members for a group photo after bringing in the heaviest single catch in the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**D**ebbie 1 ruled the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament held over the weekend after reeling in the heaviest single catch in the competition.



The Roque Chaco-skippered *Debbie 1* caught a 384.50-lb marlin yesterday morning to beat more than 60 boats for the top honors. The winning catch was the lone fish Roque and his crewmembers Randal, Ronaldo, Ray, and Tony Chaco, and Romy Magan got after nearly five hours of fishing yesterday and came a day after they lost three big marlins.

"We had three last Saturday, but they got away and we only managed to bring back a 20-lb wahoo. Today, we also had

See TRIUMPHANT on  
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A crewmember of *Debbie 1* and his daughter watch their 384.50-lb marlin get lifted at the weighing station at Smiling Cove Marina yesterday during the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

### Carol debuts in Fed Cup today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



CNMI junior player Carol Lee will be tested when she competes for the Pacific Oceania in the 2017 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II that will kick off today in Tajikistan.

Lee will debut in the Fed Cup after being named to the elite team that also includes Papua New Guinea's Abigail Tere-Apisah, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, and New Caledonia's Mayka Zima, and non-playing captain Patrice Cotti of Tahiti. The Commonwealth player is the youngest member of the squad at 15, earning a slot on the squad after powering Pacific Oceania to the title win against Sri Lanka in the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Zone in India in February this year and getting singles and doubles championships in tournaments under the Juniors ITF Circuit in May and June in



Lee

Morocco, New Caledonia, and Fiji.

"It will be a great learning experience for Carol because she will be playing against players who are in a very high level. She aims to reach that high level, too one day. Our family is proud of her because she was selected on the team and is willing to learn from her coaches and teammates," said Carol's father Dong Min Lee, adding that his daughter is in top condition after competing in a lot of tournaments this year.

Carol arrived in Tajikistan last Saturday after two days of travel and had a brief training session a few hours after she made it to Dushanbe.

"It was a long travel to get here. It took two days to come and it was really tir-

See CAROL on Page 26

### SSS completes summer camp, to host futsal tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Saipan Soccer School concluded its two-month summer camp last Friday with over 100 children in the U10 and U12 age groups completing the program.

The camp wrapped up with participants playing basketball and futsal games at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium and futsal pitch of the TSL Sports Complex. Team 2 made up of Nolan Newaki Yixi Chen, Henry Xue, Rafael Busby, Dean Duenas, and John Peter Quitado ruled the U10 futsal mini tournament after



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Team 1's Andrew Sablan, right, dribbles in front of Team 2's Kohtar Goto during the first half of their finals game in the mini futsal tournament of the Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex

beating Team 5. In the U12 futsal competition, Team 5 of Kohtar Goto Kristopher Pascual, Cody Shimizu, Christian Guerrero, Paulo Jerome Quitado, Kenny Laquian, and Jim Maniago won in the finals against Team 1.

Team 1, which had Tyran Joe Saures, Andrew Sablan, Eun Ming Cacdac, Merric Toves, Garrett Weaver, and Jeremy Quimzon as members, earlier prevailed in the U12 basketball finals against Team 3. In the U10 division, the champion was also Team 1 of Kadesh Pelayo, Nolan Cultura, William Xue, Anthony Rivera, June Yu, and Mark Ryan Costales. All the first

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